

# The Inside Scoop

An Inside Look at National,  
State and Local Politics

March 7, 2005 Vol. 1 #15



## Washington, D.C. Special Edition



Representative Green with  
President Karzai of Afghanistan

### Congressman Green Spends Time With the Scoop

By Rick Sense

**RS** Congressman Green, thank you so much for taking time from your busy schedule to answer some questions for the readers of The Inside Scoop. Much has happened since November, including your contemplation of a gubernatorial run in 2006. But first, how is your family, and what do they think of your possible run for Governor?

**MG** My family is doing well. They're all real busy, and worried more about classes, homework and soccer practice than politics (as they should be). But, once they start seeing more signs of a campaign getting underway – parades, picnics, rallies, etc. – they'll catch the political fever again. I haven't had the chance to see them as often as I'd like – it's been a hectic Lincoln Day season and I've spent quite a few weekends on the road visiting with folks across the state.

(continued on page 3)



Ryan and Monica Eddy with  
President and Mrs. Bush at The White House

### Mr. and Mrs. Eddy Go to Washington

By Ryan Eddy

What's it like to stand five rows behind the President of the United States at the swearing-in ceremony of the new Secretary of Homeland Security and realize that you don't have your camera? It's excruciating. But really, when you're at work, who carries a camera, or has enough confidence to whip it out around their co-workers?

It's unreal to me, and to my family, that on any given day that I'm at work, I'm less than a block away from the White House, I'm running errands to the West Wing and passing former National Security Advisor and current Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in the halls. It's a job many dream of and one that I've had the blessing to land.

When I first came to Washington, I planned to work as a policy analyst for a private company and could only dream of working for the White House. When the private position fell through, I decided to follow through on my White House dream with the support of family and friends, most importantly my wife Monica.

(continued on page 2)

**(Mr. And Mrs. Eddy...continued from page 1)**

After numerous interviews, a little time and much determination I was finally able to land a position with The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. I am now afforded the opportunity to work for the President's Science Advisor and work on some of the most pressing issues facing our country: Homeland and National Security.

The gratitude I feel for being able to work for the current Administration is unmatched. With every event I partake in and every issue that crosses my desk, I know that I can trust in President George W. Bush to put his integrity, his heart, his reputation, and his best advisors on the line to do what's best for America.

Throughout my almost two years of service to the President I have been fortunate enough to experience some incredible events. Everything from personally meeting the President on countless occasions (including two Christmas parties at the White House) and preparing the Chief of Staff for an event (and getting recognized for it in a personal Christmas letter he sent to me) to attending official State arrivals on the South Lawn and watching performances at the Kennedy Center in the President's box.

My position has allowed me to see first hand how much the President and his Administration are committed to protecting our homeland through innovations in science and technology. The President cares deeply about the importance of science which stands in stark contrast to what many others in the media and the Democratic establishment would want you to believe. Therefore it was my duty and honor to work to keep him in office for four more years.

As some of you know, I had the opportunity to volunteer for the RNC in the wonderful city of Appleton for the last five days of the campaign. It was here in the heart of the Midwest that I felt a true calling for those who trust and honor our President. Working in such a great town with honest folk who

believe so strongly that he will lead our Nation in the right direction was an inspiration. It was such an eye-opening experience to be around so many people that were passionate about the President, both young and old and rich and poor. You don't often get that feeling working in a big and bustling city like Washington, D.C.

After coming back to Washington following the election, I came back even more enthused and thankful to work for President George W. Bush. It is truly an honor to work in this White House and it will be an experience I will hold near and dear to me for the rest of my life.

(Editor's note-Ryan Eddy is Confidential Assistant to the Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. He and his wife Monica live in the Washington, D.C. area.)



**Where are They Now?  
Marci Vanadestine  
by Rick Sense**

Marci Vanadestine is currently a member of Congressman Mark Green's Washington staff. Many of you met Marci last year when she served as the Outagamie County Bush/Cheney 2004 Campaign Coordinator.

Marci sends her regards to everyone in Outagamie County that worked on President Bush's successful campaign. (Marci played a large role in the President's success in Outagamie County!) Marci reports that she is enjoying her Washington experience and looks forward to a chance to come back and visit Wisconsin.

**(Rep. Green interview continued from page 1)**

**RS** When my eight-year old son Ryan learned that I would be interviewing you for the Scoop, he wanted me to ask you-when you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew-up? Did you always want to be a Congressman or a Governor?

**MG** Well, like most kids politics was the furthest thing from my mind. At the time I was more interested in becoming a pro football player or an explorer.

**RS** You've accomplished much in Washington. What are you proudest of from your time in Congress? What has surprised you most?

**MG** As a member of Congress I've had the honor and privilege of working on some historic challenges. But, what I'm most proud of are the things I do outside the limelight. Every day my staff and I assist folks in a very direct and personal way, helping them get their retirement benefits, the health care they need, and the veterans' benefits they earned.

On top of that, I'm proud of my work with the U.S. Coast Guard in finding the missing Linda E. fishing boat, helping America win the war on terror, and crafting laws that protect women and children from crimes – such as my “Two Strikes, You're Out” child protection bill and the Debbie Smith Act to get sex offenders off the streets with better DNA evidence.

**RS** When you were first elected to Congress you were the only Republican that year to defeat an incumbent Democrat. What lessons did you learn from this experience that will help you unseat an incumbent Democrat in Wisconsin in 2006?

**MG** I learned that it takes a movement of grassroots activists to win – that a movement can overcome superior money and the power of incumbency. If you focus on issues that people care about, you can attract Republicans, Independents and even Democrats to your cause. Interestingly, Bill Clinton won the eighth district in 1996, but by 1998 we were able to unseat Jay Johnson. And, thanks to the hard work of so many great volunteers, the eighth district has grown more solidly conservative. I am the only member of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, Republican or Democrat, to have broken the 70 percent barrier in the last three elections.

That's the power of grassroots activists.

**RS** The other night my wife Dorene and I took our two sons to visit the Lincoln Memorial. We were moved by the humble majesty of Lincoln staring into the Washington night. It reminded me of the movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington. In the movie, Jefferson Smith-played by Jimmy Stewart-escapes his handlers and “wanders-off” to experience the sights and soul of our Nation's Capital. Have you ever done that in your time in Washington? If so, what location has moved you the most?

**MG** Washington, D.C. is a fascinating city, overflowing with history. But, the most moving place for me is the halls of the Capitol itself. To realize men like Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt once walked there is truly humbling and inspiring.

**RS** In various speeches you have mentioned your admiration for great leaders like Lincoln and Reagan. Will you share with Scoop readers the three political figures that have inspired you the most?

**MG** Ronald Reagan, Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher.

**RS** Who in your personal life has inspired you?

**MG** My parents have been the most inspiring figures in my life. My mother grew up in London during World War II, enduring incredible danger – including the German Blitzkrieg. My father is from South Africa, and has been a dedicated physician in Green Bay for decades. Their appreciation of American values and democracy brought them to the United States, and they passed that deep appreciation on to me.

**RS** During the 2004 campaign, grassroots efforts really made the difference in securing re-election for President Bush. What level of grassroots involvement do you believe is needed to win back Wisconsin's Governor's Mansion in '06?

**(Rep. Green interview continues on page 4)**

**(Rep. Green interview continued from page 3)**

**MG** Grassroots efforts will be absolutely key in the 2006 governor's race. We must act not so much like a party, but as a movement – a coalition of folks driven by principles and issues who are willing to put it on the line.

**RS** Given the troubling events in Milwaukee and Madison during the last two presidential elections and the unwillingness of Jim Doyle to restore confidence in Wisconsin's electoral process, what steps do you feel need to be taken to return Wisconsin's reputation for clean and fair elections?

**MG** Votes coming from invalid addresses, failures to process registration cards, uncounted absentee ballots, questions about voter identities, the list of suspected abuses goes on and on – the case for real election reform has never been stronger, if we don't take steps now to clean up our elections, we run the risk of undermining faith in our democracy.

Voting is the most fundamental exercise in our great democracy, that's why I've introduced legislation that helps protect that exercise by reforming the electoral process and preserving the basic principal of 'one man, one vote.' It builds on the Help America Vote Act's reforms and marks a continued push to ensure our elections remain both free and fair.

The proposal, known as the "Valuing Our Trust in Elections (VOTE) Act," will establish a set of national standards governing the distribution and collection of voter registration applications, the handling of absentee ballots, and the training of poll workers for federal elections. It will also require all voters to present valid, government-issued photo identification at the polls, expedite investigations of voting complaints, and require federal audits in communities to ensure compliance with standards.

On November 2, 2004 an incumbent state legislator in Texas lost his race by less than 35 votes. While he declined to pursue the matter, it's likely that ineligible voters decided the race.

Additional Election Day concerns include the presidential race here in Wisconsin decided by just over 11,000 votes. Yet in Milwaukee alone, more than 7,000 ballots remain unaccounted for. Election officials in Pennsylvania were unclear about how to handle people who had not yet registered to vote. They informed these individuals to vote twice – once by provisional ballot, and later at their real polling place. And finally, in Washington, 37 felons voted, 9 dead people voted twice, 20 people voted in multiple states, 10 people voted twice, and 437 provisional ballots were counted without being verified. This is an election where the race for governor was decided by 129 votes.

My legislation will create a clear set of standards for registering voters by preventing a convicted felon from canvassing; by requiring individuals who are paid to register voters to leave their contact information with the registrant – including the name of the organization employing them; and by strengthening current identification standards for first time registrants. Additionally, the VOTE Act will also create federal crimes for both organizations and individuals who violate these standards.

This legislation will also set standards for absentee ballots by authorizing the federal Election Assistance Commission to establish standards to prevent fraud and abuse in handling absentee ballots.

Voters will be required to present valid, government-issued photo identification at the polls, and requires anyone voting by mail, including absentee voters, to include a copy of their photo identification with their returned ballot. The bill does also allow states to carve out exceptions for individuals who can't meet this requirement for various reasons, including health. Federal grants to states will be provided to help pay for photo identification for low-income individuals who cannot afford an ID card.

The VOTE Act will create consistency from polling place to polling place, requiring that all poll workers receive adequate training and establishes a grant program for states to help train poll workers.

**(Rep. Green interview continues on page 5)**

**(Rep. Green interview continued from page 4)**

My legislation will authorize the federal Election Assistance Commission to audit any community to ensure its compliance with the new federal standards and cut its federal Help America Vote Act funds if it does not remedy its problems.

Finally, the VOTE Act will require that an investigation of all voting complaints be initiated within 30 days of their receipt, and that a status report is filed to the appropriate state election official within 60 days.



**Representative Green with one of America's bravest and best.**

**RS** Gambling is continuing to concern many in Wisconsin. Doyle's Compacts with the Tribes left many unanswered questions and sadly, the number of problem gamblers in Wisconsin continues to rise. What, if anything, can be done?

**MG** Good question. Governor Doyle's secret deals made it harder to address this important problem. Expanded gambling will only make it more difficult for us to reduce the number of gamblers in Wisconsin.

**RS** I have been a volunteer for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter for more than six years. I've enjoyed working with you on legislation and funding issues regarding the work of finding a cure for this horrendous disease. Thank you for your support. Exciting work by researchers continues at the University of Wisconsin that may one day lead to a cure. What role do you think the State should play in this research effort?

**MG** The state should support much of this research by offering facilities like the patent arm of the UW system ("WARF"). The problem is that the governor's budget chases research students away from Wisconsin. Tuition has gone up 37 percent in two years under this governor. We need to be rolling out the welcome mat for talented researchers, not closing the door on them.

**RS** Economic Development is an issue that proves challenging to the business community and to state and local governments. What should Wisconsin do to encourage businesses to locate in and stay in Wisconsin? What can Wisconsin do to encourage young professionals to come to our State, and how do we keep our own young people from moving elsewhere when they enter the work force?

**MG** We need to encourage economic growth by lowering the tax burden on every Wisconsinite, and reforming regulations to better promote business development and entrepreneurship. We also need to create more educational opportunities for young folks by making our colleges and universities more affordable. A 37 percent tuition increase, and a \$250 million cut in the UW budget last session alone won't get us there.

**RS** Finally Mark, how soon will it be before you reach a decision on a run for Governor?

**MG** The newspapers have referred to me as "all but announced," and that's probably accurate. As I've traveled the state talking to folks the reaction has been absolutely amazing. Volunteers are joining literally every day.

**RS** Thanks for taking time to answer these questions Mark, and the best of luck in your run for Governor!

## **Mark Green Letter to Demonstration in Whitewater**

The following letter from Congressman Mark Green was read Tuesday evening at the demonstration in opposition to Ward Churchill's appearance at UW-Whitewater:

March 1, 2005

Dear Friends gathered in Whitewater,

Thank you for what you are doing tonight. You are standing up for our country, our values and our state.

Tonight, you are making it clear to Mr. Churchill that his hate speech is not welcome in Whitewater or any other part of our state. You are also sending a message of support, sympathy and respect to both the family members of the 9-11 victims, and our men and women in uniform who are fighting to ensure we never see such a terrible day again. And your message is so much louder, so much more clearer than any vitriolic and irrational statement Ward Churchill has ever and will ever utter.

You are standing with the heroes of modern American history against Mr. Churchill and all those who claim that America is to blame for the evil actions of evil men.

I am sure others have already pointed out that Mr. Churchill is no scholar, no enlightened figure. In fact, he's no more than a two-bit hack for hatred. He has his right to free speech as we all do – but not at the expense of students and taxpayers.

I only wish the university leadership and Governor Doyle would have stepped in to stop Mr. Churchill from perverting the good name of the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater.

Allow me to close by exercising some free speech of my own. Mr. Churchill, stay off our campuses, stay out of our state, and most important of all keep your hands off our hard-earned public dollars!

Best regards,

Congressman Mark Green

## **Democrats Richardson, Gregoire Support Protecting Elections from Fraud**

by Chris Lato

Washington State's Christine Gregoire is the second Democrat governor in recent days to introduce a proposal requiring prospective voters to show photo ID, exposing Wisconsin's James E. Doyle as out-of-step on election protection issues, even within his own party. Gregoire, who won her recent election by a razor-thin 129-vote margin, appointed a task force that recommends requiring photo ID at the polls. Voters who show up at polling places without an ID should be provided only with a provisional ballot, according to the task force. In New Mexico, Democrat Governor Bill Richardson recently proposed a photo ID requirement. Richardson chairs the Democratic Governors' Association.

While the details may differ with the legislation that recently passed the Wisconsin Assembly and is now being considered by the state Senate, Republican Party of Wisconsin (RPW) Chairman Rick Graber pointed out both governors seem to understand the need to provide a layer of protection that helps prevent legal voters from being disenfranchised.

“There is no reason for photo ID at the polls to be such a partisan issue. Unfortunately, that is the tone Governor Doyle is setting with his stubborn opposition,” Graber commented. “Why shouldn't Democrats be just as concerned about election fraud as Republicans? “It is not too late for Governor Doyle to do the right thing and take a decisive step toward protecting the integrity of elections,” Graber added. “He should join his Democrat colleagues in New Mexico and Washington State in supporting photo ID at the polls.”

Graber also acknowledged this week's resignation of Milwaukee Election Commission director Lisa Artison, who oversaw the November 2004 election. “Obviously, Lisa Artison is culpable for severely mismanaging the 2004 election, but make no mistake: her resignation in no way excuses the mess that is Milwaukee's election system,” Graber noted. “Serious problems existed before Lisa Artison arrived on the scene, and now is the time to fix those problems.”



Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker  
John Gard

### Joint Statement from Majority Leader Schultz and Speaker Gard

“The property tax freeze is an incredibly important piece of public policy with serious financial implications for families across our state. The non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau has estimated that if the governor vetoes the property tax freeze property taxes on the median-valued home in Wisconsin will go up by \$389 over the next two years.

Before sending this bill to the governor, we’re going to take a time out on behalf of the taxpayers. We hope this short break will give the governor a chance to reconsider his opposition to the property tax freeze and reflect on the impact his veto would have on Wisconsin families. The pause will also give taxpayers an opportunity to express their opinions to the governor before he makes this important decision by either calling him at 608-266-1212 or e-mailing him at [governor@wisconsin.gov](mailto:governor@wisconsin.gov).

One month ago, Governor Doyle was dismissing the concept of a property tax freeze as “bumper sticker politics,” now he’s embracing it rhetorically. A week ago he was promising a veto of our bill with no ifs, ands, or buts, now he’s talking about being willing to compromise. We are hopeful that, given a little additional time to reflect on his action, he may change his mind once more and sign the freeze into law.”



### A Better Use of OUR Money

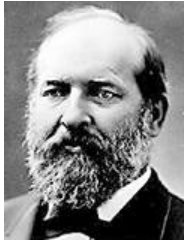
By Peter J. Stueck  
Candidate for Alderman  
Appleton’s 9<sup>th</sup> District

The city is proposing to spend 2.6 million dollars to rehabilitate a building for low-income housing. When you do the math, it comes to a bill of \$104,000 per family.

Currently in the city of Appleton, there are over 60 properties for sale priced below \$100,000 and 20 are priced below \$80,000. A better use of our money would be to purchase 25 of these properties, rehab them, (many would not need it) and rent them to the individuals involved for the cost of property taxes, insurance, and normal maintenance-roughly \$300 per month.

The buildings could then be sold to the renters, after their financial situation improves, for a small profit to the city. That would leave the proposed building available for a developer to purchase, again at a profit to the city.

I realize that this idea might be too late for this particular situation, but thinking along these lines is what I think our Common Council should be doing. We shouldn’t settle for the norm, we have to look at everything we do like we are spending our friend’s or family’s money, because, simply put, we are.



## Famous Republican James A. Garfield

(Editor's note: After the large positive response to last issue's biography on Abraham Lincoln, I am beginning a series that in each issue focuses on a famous Republican from history. This issue's focus-the life of President James A. Garfield. Source-www.whitehouse.gov.)

As the last of the log cabin Presidents, James A. Garfield attacked political corruption and won back for the Presidency a measure of prestige it had lost during the Reconstruction period.

He was born in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, in 1831. Fatherless at two, he later drove canal boat teams, somehow earning enough money for an education. He was graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts in 1856, and he returned to the Western Reserve Eclectic Institute (later Hiram College) in Ohio as a classics professor. Within a year he was made its president.

Garfield was elected to the Ohio Senate in 1859 as a Republican. During the secession crisis, he advocated coercing the seceding states back into the Union.

In 1862, when Union military victories had been few, he successfully led a brigade at Middle Creek, Kentucky, against Confederate troops. At 31, Garfield became a brigadier general, two years later a major general of volunteers.

Meanwhile, in 1862, Ohioans elected him to Congress. President Lincoln persuaded him to resign his commission: It was easier to find major generals than to obtain effective Republicans for Congress. Garfield repeatedly won re-election for 18 years, and became the leading Republican in the House.

At the 1880 Republican Convention, Garfield failed to win the Presidential nomination for his friend John Sherman. Finally, on the 36th ballot, Garfield himself became the "dark horse" nominee.

By a margin of only 10,000 popular votes, Garfield defeated the Democratic nominee, Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock.

As President, Garfield strengthened Federal authority over the New York Customs House, stronghold of Senator Roscoe Conkling, who was leader of the Stalwart Republicans and dispenser of patronage in New York. When Garfield submitted to the Senate a list of appointments including many of Conkling's friends, he named Conkling's arch-rival William H. Robertson to run the Customs House. Conkling contested the nomination, tried to persuade the Senate to block it, and appealed to the Republican caucus to compel its withdrawal.

But Garfield would not submit: "This...will settle the question whether the President is registering clerk of the Senate or the Executive of the United States.... shall the principal port of entry ... be under the control of the administration or under the local control of a factional senator."

Conkling maneuvered to have the Senate confirm Garfield's uncontested nominations and adjourn without acting on Robertson. Garfield countered by withdrawing all nominations except Robertson's; the Senators would have to confirm him or sacrifice all the appointments of Conkling's friends.

In a final desperate move, Conkling and his fellow-Senator from New York resigned, confident that their legislature would vindicate their stand and re-elect them. Instead, the legislature elected two other men; the Senate confirmed Robertson. Garfield's victory was complete.

In foreign affairs, Garfield's Secretary of State invited all American republics to a conference to meet in Washington in 1882. But the conference never took place. On July 2, 1881, in a Washington railroad station, an embittered attorney who had sought a consular post shot the President.

**(Garfield... continued)**

Mortally wounded, Garfield lay in the White House for weeks. Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, tried unsuccessfully to find the bullet with an induction-balance electrical device which he had designed. On September 6, Garfield was taken to the New Jersey seaside. For a few days he seemed to be recuperating, but on September 19, 1881, he died from an infection and internal hemorrhage.

At Garfield's autopsy, examiners determined that the bullet had lodged itself some four inches from the spine in a protective cyst. It is widely accepted that had doctors practiced proper hand washing and refrained from invasive attempts to remove the bullet, Garfield would have survived.



**RPW Chair Rick Graber**

**RPW Petition Campaign Presses  
Doyle to Support Election Reform**  
by Chris Lato

Just after the Wisconsin Assembly strongly endorsed a bill that would require prospective voters to show photo ID at the polls, the Republican Party of Wisconsin (RPW) announced a statewide petition drive to encourage Gov. James E. Doyle to sign the bill when it reaches his desk.

February 24<sup>th</sup>'s 64 – 33 vote included the support of some Assembly Democrats. The State Senate is expected to act on the bill in the near future. Doyle vetoed a photo ID bill in the previous legislative session and has suggested he will do so again.

**RPW Chairman Rick Graber encouraged supporters of photo ID to visit the RPW website at [www.wisgop.org/photoIDpetition.pdf](http://www.wisgop.org/photoIDpetition.pdf) and circulate copies of a petition to encourage Doyle**

**to sign the photo ID bill when it reaches his desk.**

“It is not too late for the people to make their voices heard loud and clear on this issue,” Graber said. “There is broad bipartisan support for photo ID at the polls. Hopefully thousands of Wisconsinites will take this opportunity to tell Doyle exactly what they think.”

Graber pointed out a poll of 500 likely voters released this week by RPW shows 84.3% support a photo ID requirement at the polls.

“Republicans and Democrats alike understand the need to take prudent action to close off any avenues for potential fraud,” Graber noted. “Photo ID has never been touted as a cure-all, but it is a significant step in the right direction.”

Graber added the next step will be to seek the elimination of same-day registration at the polls, as current election law leaves the door wide open to fraud on election day. Graber pointed to several examples 2004 election day problems:

- The Madison city clerk has asked prosecutors to investigate why the identities of 1,194 voters who filled out registration cards at the polls could not be verified (*WI State Journal*, 02/22/05)
- The addresses of nearly 2% of Racine voters who registered at their polling places Nov. 2 could not be verified after the fact by city officials (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 2/18/05)
- In Milwaukee, 2,800 verification postcards were returned. The city was unable to process another 1,300 cards for many reasons, including missing names and addresses, and addresses outside the city. (*MJS*, 2/18/05)

“Wisconsin’s election system needs to do a far better job of weeding out potential fraud and abuse of a very open process,” Graber noted. “It is time to put an end to the disenfranchisement of legal voters, and ending same-day registration would go a long way toward protecting legally-cast ballots.”

## President's Radio Address March 5, 2005



In the short time since I returned from my trip to Europe, the world has witnessed remarkable developments in the Middle East. In Lebanon, tens of thousands of people took to the streets in peaceful protest over the brutal assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri. For years, the Lebanese people have suffered from the aftermath of a horrific civil war and occupation by Syria. Lebanese citizens who have watched free elections in Iraq are now demanding the right to decide their own destiny, free of Syrian control and domination. Syria has been an occupying force in Lebanon for nearly three decades, and Syria's support for terrorism remains a key obstacle to peace in the broader Middle East.

Today, America and Europe are standing together with the Lebanese people. The United States and France worked closely to pass U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559. This resolution demands that Lebanon's sovereignty be respected, that all foreign forces be withdrawn, and that free and fair elections be conducted without foreign influence. The world is now speaking with one voice to ensure that democracy and freedom are given a chance to flourish in Lebanon.

French President Chirac, British Prime Minister Blair, and German Chancellor Schroeder have all called on Syria to withdraw from Lebanon. A Syrian withdrawal of all its military and intelligence personnel would help ensure that the Lebanese elections occur as scheduled in the spring, and that they will be free and fair.

At the same time, the Lebanese people were demonstrating against terrorism in Beirut, the elected leader of the Palestinian people, President Abbas, declared that his government is committed to chasing down and punishing those responsible for last weekend's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. Such action is critical, because that attack is a reminder

that there are still groups and individuals who will kill to prevent peace in the Middle East.

President Abbas made his remarks in London during an international meeting of world and Arab leaders, hosted by Prime Minister Blair. The leaders attending this meeting expressed their support for the Palestinians' efforts to reform their political institutions, their economy, and their security services. And the first reform must be the dismantling of terrorist organizations. Only by ending terrorism can we achieve our common goal of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and freedom.

Today, people in a long-troubled part of the world are standing up for their freedom. In the last five months, we have witnessed successful elections in Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territory and Iraq; peaceful demonstrations on the streets of Beirut; and steps toward democratic reform in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The trend is clear: In the Middle East and throughout the world, freedom is on the march. The road ahead will not be easy, and progress will sometimes be slow. But America, Europe and our Arab partners must all continue the hard work of defeating terrorism and supporting democratic reforms.

Freedom is the birthright and deep desire of every human soul, and spreading freedom's blessings is the calling of our time. And when freedom and democracy take root in the Middle East, America and the world will be safer and more peaceful.



Map courtesy of [www.theodora.com/maps](http://www.theodora.com/maps),  
used with permission.

## The Inside Scoop Goes Inside the West Wing

By Rick Sense



**View of the West Wing of The White House**

On Tuesday night March 1, Ryan and Monica Eddy took my family and friend Scott Sauer on a tour of the West Wing of the White House. We were humbled by the experience. Ryan’s tour was both interesting and insightful and it provided a real first-hand look at the day-to-day operations of the “working” White House.

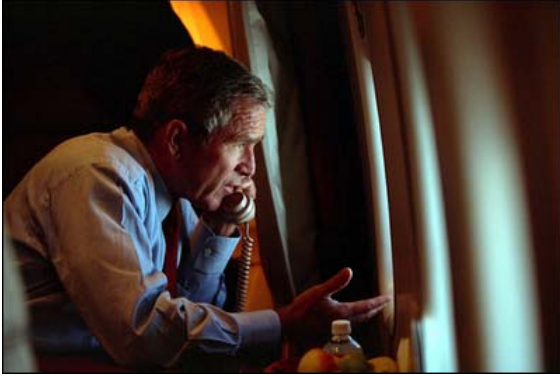
According to the White House website ([www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)), the history of the West Wing dates to the early years of The White House. President Thomas Jefferson, the first full-term occupant of The White House, proposed one-story extensions to the east and west to connect the President's house with adjacent office buildings. President Jefferson's design concepts survive in part through the terraces that connect the Residence of The White House with the East and West Wings.

But it was not until 1902, under the direction of President Theodore Roosevelt (the first president to formally adopt the name White House for the presidential residence) that the presidential offices were removed from the Residence to the addition that became known as the West Wing.

Today, the West Wing is the center of activity at The White House. The West Wing houses the President's Oval Office, the offices of his executive staff, the Cabinet Room, the Roosevelt Room, and the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room.

After passing through security, our group walked by The White House Situation Room (not open for tour). The Situation Room was created after the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon entry of the West Wing, we observed many wonderful and inspiring photos that lined the entry and the halls throughout. According to Ryan, 4 photographers are on staff to capture the President’s term. In one area, there is a photo-history of the Bush Administration to date that includes photos from 9/11, the President’s surprise Thanksgiving Day trip to Iraq and Senator John Kerry’s concession call the day after the last Election.

(I have included some examples of the photos that were on view during our tour.)



**White House Photo by Eric Draper**

**After departing Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, President George W. Bush confers with Vice President Dick Cheney from Air Force One during his flight to Andrews Air Force Base September 11, 2001.**



**White House Photo by Eric Draper**

**In a historic address to the nation and joint session of Congress September 20, 2001, President Bush pledges to defend America's freedom against the fear of terrorism -“we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail.”**



**White House Photo by Eric Draper**

**During a meeting with European Union Leaders at the EU Council Building in Brussels, President George W. Bush talks with Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, left, of Austria, and Prime Minister Blair of Britain, Tuesday, February 22, 2005.**



**White House Photo by Eric Draper**

**President George W. Bush gives his thumbs up as he leaves the stage with Prime Minister Mikulas Dzurinda of Slovakia after speaking at Hviezdoslavovo Square in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, Thursday, February 24, 2005.**

Next on the tour was a stop at the very exclusive White House Mess. Operated by the US Navy, the Mess provides executive dining room dining, provides a carryout service, and provides complete catering coordination to The White House complex. Only a select few are allowed to eat here.

Following The White House Mess, we went outside and took a brief walk along the West Wing Rose Garden (named after Rose Kennedy, not the bush). We were able to walk the famous outdoor corridor where presidents have walked for the last Century.

The Cabinet Room was next. According to The White House website, the Cabinet Room was included in the 1902 West Wing addition. The Cabinet Room is the place where the President meets with the members of his Cabinet, the National Security Council, members of Congress, and Heads of State. Ryan was quick to point out that this room can only be used for meetings when the President is present.

At the center of the room is an oval mahogany conference table, a gift from President Nixon in 1970. When the Cabinet meets around the table, each Cabinet member is assigned a chair positioned at the table according to the date the department was established. The President occupies the taller chair at the center of the east side of the table. The Vice President sits opposite the President. The Secretary of State, ranking first among the department heads, sits on the President's right. The Secretary of the Treasury, ranking second, sits to the Vice President's right. The Secretary of Defense (third) sits to the President's left, and the Attorney General (fourth) sits to the Vice President's left. When Cabinet members conclude their terms of service, they are permitted to purchase their cabinet chairs, which bear brass plates indicating their cabinet position or positions and dates of service

Overlooking the Rose Garden, the Cabinet Room contains likenesses of former Presidents and statesmen, the choice reflecting the preferences of the current President. President Bush has selected marble busts of Washington and Franklin and portraits of Theodore Roosevelt, Jefferson, Eisenhower and Washington as well as a painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



**The Cabinet Room**  
White House photo by Paul Morse

Next up was the Oval Office. Arguably the most famous office in the world, the Oval Office is the president's formal workspace, where he confers with heads of state, diplomats, his staff, and other dignitaries; where he often addresses the American public and the world on television or radio; and where he deals with the issues of the day.

According to The White House website, the first Oval Office was built in 1909 in the center of the south side of the West Wing. In 1934 it was moved to its current location on the southeast corner of the wing, overlooking the Rose Garden. Each president has decorated the Oval Office to suit his tastes. Among the features that remain constant are the white marble mantel from the original 1909 Oval Office, the presidential seal in the ceiling, and the two flags behind the president's desk--the U.S. flag and the President's flag.

President George W. Bush has selected several paintings depicting Texas scenes by Texas artists for his office. Many are on loan from museums in San Antonio and El Paso.

President Bush has chosen to use the Resolute desk, which was made from the timbers of H.M.S. Resolute, an abandoned British ship discovered by an American vessel and returned to the Queen of England as a token of friendship and goodwill. When the ship was retired, Queen Victoria commissioned the desk and presented it to President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1880.



**The Oval Office**  
**White House photo by Paul Morse**

The desk has twice been modified from the original 1880 version. President Franklin D. Roosevelt requested that the kneehole be fitted with a panel carved with the Presidential coat-of-arms, but he did not live to see it installed in 1945. President Ronald Reagan requested it be raised on a 2" base to accommodate his 6'2" frame.

Every president since Hayes, except Presidents Johnson, Nixon and Ford, has used the Resolute desk. The desk was made famous by a photograph of President John F. Kennedy at work while his son, John Jr., peeked out from behind the kneehole panel. President Bush is the 17th President to occupy the Oval Office.

Across the hall from the Oval Office was the Roosevelt Room. The window-less Roosevelt Room occupies the original site of the president's office when the West Wing was built in 1902. According to the White House website, in 1909 the room became a part of two waiting rooms when the West Wing was expanded and the Oval Office was built. When Franklin Roosevelt relocated the Oval Office from the center of the building to the southeast corner in 1934, this room received a skylight.



**The Roosevelt Room**  
**White House photo by Paul Morse**

Franklin Roosevelt called this room the Fish Room, where he displayed an aquarium and fishing mementos. John Kennedy continued the room's nautical theme by mounting a sailfish that he caught in Acapulco, Mexico.

President Richard Nixon named the room in 1969 to honor Theodore Roosevelt for building the West Wing and Franklin Roosevelt for expanding it. Today the room is used as a conference room and features a multimedia center for presentations. Ryan noted that the room currently reflects images from Theodore

Roosevelt's life, including the Nobel Peace Prize he won for mediating the Russo-Japanese War and a large painting of T.R. on horseback in his Rough Rider garb. Ryan also mentioned that when a Democrat is in office, Theodore's images are replaced with F.D.R.'s.

Next was the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room. Ryan pointed out that the Press Pool room is built above The White House indoor pool (hence the name "Press Pool"). By far one of the least glamorous rooms in the West Wing, this room is famous for its deep blue curtain and White House logo that appears behind the speaker at the podium. Designed like a tiny movie theater, the seating is tight and work space even tighter.



**Greg Sense "answers" questions in the White House Press Room**

In the White House's unique and fascinating history is how it received its name. The home survived a fire at the hands of the British in 1814 (during the war of 1812), and to cover the fire damage, the house was painted white. On our tour Ryan pointed out an entry way (opposite a long hall to The White House bowling alley) outside of public view that remains unpainted and still bears the burnt scorch marks left by the flames from the fire started by the British. The exterior stone walls of The White House are those first put in place when it was constructed two centuries ago.

In all, the tour was a wonderfully moving experience that will remain with me for the rest of my life. It reminded me, once again, of how unique our country's experiment in democracy really is. An ordinary person, chosen by other ordinary people to deal with the extraordinary is truly a remarkable phenomenon.

**In the Next Scoop (March 20, 2005)**

**Interview with Gubernatorial Candidate and Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker**

**Interview with Outagamie County Judicial Candidate Mark McGinnis**

**Additional interviews**