

## Old Country Lawyer, End of Year One

At the close of the first year of the Old Country Lawyer column, I'd like to thank the readers for putting up with my philosophizing. I understand that no one has cancelled their subscription to the Blue Print in protest of my proposals to redistribute income through the gasoline tax, to raise the prices of Chinese imports through tariffs to pay for health inspectors, or to bail out giant corporations with tax-funded healthcare for everybody. So I guess not many of you are reading the column.

The Democratic majority in Congress has finally, in the last week of November, taken the position that I had promoted last Spring, that if the President won't sign a war appropriation bill with restrictions and troop withdrawal requirements, the Congress will no longer cave in and will simply not pass any appropriation as a blank check. Let the President take the blame if he guts the rest of the military to fund his war in spite of the will of Congress to bring the war to an end. I sure hope Congress greets the New Year with that same resolution.

I look forward to 2008, especially the first week of 2008 when Ohio Democrats meet to select candidates for delegate to the Democratic National Convention. The 17th Congressional District has been allotted more delegates than any other district in Ohio except the 10th, so we get to send seven delegates to the Convention. Portage Democrats should take part in the delegate selection process. See [ohiodems.org](http://ohiodems.org) for details.

So it's been a long year with no progress on ending the war and little success in defending Constitutional liberties. It is somewhat comforting to reflect that the United States have had these years before, and we have survived them. I bid you all a hopeful New Year with these words from Thomas Jefferson, written two hundred nine years ago:

"A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt ... If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake."

Written in a letter by Thomas Jefferson after the passage of the Sedition Act in 1798

Happy New Year.

- Christopher J. Mallin, Old Country Lawyer