

SCHIP

Massa challenges Kuhl to debate

BY BOB RECOTTA
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CORNING | The tit-for-tat between U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, and his Democratic opponent, Eric Massa, over the State Children's Health Insurance Program has reached a new level.



MASSA

Massa has challenged Kuhl to a debate on the issue.

"I am writing today to accept your invitation to an honest, open, and public discussion surrounding the facts of the SCHIP," Massa said in a letter he sent to Kuhl. "It has become abundantly clear to me that the working families of our district demand change and will no longer accept excuses in place of health care for their children."

Kuhl has never publicly invited Massa to debate the issue.

The battle began earlier this month, when Massa blasted Kuhl for a mailing sent to district residents. In the mailing, Kuhl claims he voted yes on a SCHIP bill that ensures children who currently receive coverage would continue to have access to the program.

Massa said the mailing failed to mention that Kuhl voted to twice uphold the president's veto of a bill which would have expanded SCHIP.

Kuhl countered in a press release last week stating Massa was misinforming the public on the details of the SCHIP expansion bill Kuhl voted against.

"He put out a press release calling me a puppet, saying I ought to read the legislation," Massa said. "I've read the legislation. I've published the verbatim excerpts of the legislation. You can not lie with black and white quotes that come right out of the bill."

Massa claimed that Kuhl's position on the program hurts the voters of the 29th Congressional District.

"Thousands of families can't take their kids to the doctor," Massa said. "That tends to rise above most things when your kids are sick. Randy Kuhl's vote has

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NEWTOWN BATTLEFIELD



GATEHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

The Newtown Battlefield site is roughly 2,100 acres and was the place of one the most important battles of the American Revolution.

Historical society taskforce seeks national park status

BY WARREN HOWLER
GateHouse News Service

CHEMUNG | An effort is underway to make the Newtown Battlefield a national park.

The Chemung County Historical Society is forming a task force to get a feasibility study passed through Congress for the designation, said Amy Wilson, historical society director. The

battlefield is listed as a national historic landmark.

The battlefield site is approximately 2,100 acres within the towns of Chemung, Ashland and Elmira. The site also includes the 330 acres that make up the Newtown State Park.

The site received the National Historic Landmark designation in 1973.

In 1779, the Continental Army engaged in battle with

the British regulars, Loyalist rangers and 1,000 Iroquois Indian warriors. The battle of Newtown was the decisive clash in one of the largest offensive campaigns of the American Revolution.

The task force is currently being put together, Wilson said. It is being chaired by Rusty Smith, who is the vice president of the Chemung County Historical Society's board of directors.

IN BRIEF

Caton to do equipment inventory

CATON | The Caton Town Board will inventory highway garage equipment at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. The town supervisor and town clerks books will be audited.

■ Staff report



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Kuhl, Massa sound off on Bush address

BY BOB RECOTTA
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WASHINGTON, D.C. | In President Bush's seventh and final State of the Union address Monday, the president challenged Congress to cut the number of earmarks in half.

U.S. Rep. John R. "Randy" Kuhl Jr., R-Hammondsport, applauded Bush's efforts to rein in spending.

"From passing an economic stimulus plan that provides relief to cash strapped Americans and encourages business to invest in their future and their employees to eliminating wasteful federal spending, Congress must act now to ensure that the promise of the American Dream is alive and well for generations to come," Kuhl said in a written statement.

Kuhl also issued a statement on his Web site praising the president for trying to end earmarks.

Eric Massa, Democratic candidate for the 29th Congressional District, found Bush's request and Kuhl's support ironic.

"Trying to reframe themselves as being against pork after a decade of record debt, borrow and spend, it seems like an incredible flip flop," Massa said. "I saw Congressman Kuhl's Web site where he's calling for an abolition of earmarks. This is the

man who ran a TV advertisement bragging about the fact he brought home \$250 million of pork barrel earmarks. I don't even have words to describe what happens when someone changes position so radically."

On his Web site, Kuhl defended his record of securing earmarks for the district, saying he will fight for his district's fair share as long as the system is in place.

Massa applauded Bush for calling for an end to pork barrel spending, but he said Bush doesn't have credibility on the issue.

"The president has the right idea when he talks about the need to end pork barrel politics, but this is the man who has created a whole new level of it over last five years," Massa said. "If all these things are good to be done, why did he wait until his last year to do it?"

Massa also said the president misled the American people when he talked about progress in Iraq and bringing 20,000 troops home soon.

"He talks about bringing 20,000 troops home, when in fact those are troops that are coming back at end of their rotation," Massa said. "He talks about how successful the surge has been, when it hasn't created single political milestone that it promised it would."

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