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DUFFEE DEFENDS CONSTITUTION AT CONSTITUTION PARK

Norwalk, CT—On Tuesday June 3, Green Party Congressional candidate Richard Duffee drew a small crowd to Constitution Park in East Norwalk. There he spoke about current threats to the Constitution and what can be done to defend it.

Duffee told the audience, "Christopher Shays has violated his oath of office to defend the Constitution. Far from objecting to Bush and Cheney's unconstitutional acts, he has voted repeatedly for unconstitutional legislation such as the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, and the Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Act."

Duffee, a former law professor, added that Rep. Shays appears not to be disturbed by the unconstitutional suspension of habeas corpus or by violations of the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 14th Amendments. Duffee concluded, "Rep. Shays has not upheld his oath of office. He is obligated to demand impeachment and to vote against the unconstitutional acts he is supporting."

According to Duffee, President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and Congress have violated the following clauses of the Constitution:

- **Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11** (Congress's power to declare war): Congress unconstitutionally relinquished its power to Bush; Bush unconstitutionally demanded the relinquishment and falsely claimed that the authorization he received was adequate to begin new wars; and Congress has failed to reassert itself.

- **Article 1, Section 9, Clause 2** (Habeas Corpus): By passing the Military Commissions Act, Congress unconstitutionally suspended habeas corpus when there was neither rebellion nor invasion. (Lincoln, by contrast, was able to suspend it because a rebellion was current.)
- **Article 1, Section 9, Clause 3** (Ex post facto laws): Bush's executive orders have made actions that were legal at the time they were committed subject to punishment by the Executive Branch without judicial review, and Congress has not objected.
- **Article II, Section 1, Clause 7** (Oath of office): Bush has violated his oath of office 1200 times when he has issued signing statements saying he will not enforce the law, and Congress has not objected.
- **Article V** (Amendment of the Constitution): Bush's unconstitutional legislation, executive orders, and administrative actions, and the unconstitutional laws passed by Congress constitute infringements on the rules governing Constitutional amendments.
- **Article VI, Section 1, Clause 2**: makes International law part of the Supreme Law of the Land, but Bush, Cheney, and Congress have violated the Charter of the United Nations--which the USA wrote--and which rules that ALL aggressive war is illegal. Planning our attack on Iraq was a crime against peace, the most serious of the charges under the Nuremberg rules--which the USA wrote. Bush, Cheney, and other members of the Administration and military have authorized and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity also. The Administration has violated the Geneva Accords and other human rights treaties.
- **Amendment 1**: Freedom of the press is now so abridged that Reporters without Borders now ranks the USA 17th, below Costa Rica and Slovenia.
- **Amendment 4**: Unreasonable searches and seizures: the Patriot Act and executive orders allow for numerous violations. The Bush Administration has committed many thousands of violations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and flagrantly and falsely claims to have the right to do this.
- **Amendment 5**: Many of Bush's executive orders flagrantly violate ALL concepts of due process because he claims the right to detain people without notice to any judge. Guantanamo and "extraordinary rendition"--i.e., kidnapping--are blatant deprivations of liberty without due process of law.
- **Amendment 6**: The right to a speedy and public trial, to be informed of the nature and cause of an accusation, to be confronted with witnesses, and to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses are all routinely violated by the Bush Administration.
- **Amendment 7**: The Military Commissions Act eliminates the right to trial by jury.
- **Amendment 8**: Rendition, Abu Ghraib, the CIA, prison ships, and Guantanamo all use legal fictions and terms of art to justify violating the prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.
- **Amendment 15**: The right to vote, particularly for African Americans, has been violated around the country in the 2000 and 2004 elections, and so far we lack the ability to prevent violations in the 2008 election.