

## Guest Speaker Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich.



Carl Levin is the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he has earned a reputation as a strong supporter of national defense and an effective waste fighter. He was an early and consistent advocate of efforts to prepare the American military to combat terrorism and other emerging threats of the post-Cold War world.

He has been a leading critic of the Bush administration's policies in Iraq. In August, he called for the Iraqi assembly to vote out of office the government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, which, Levin said, had failed to achieve political compromise and an end to sectarian strife.

Levin also serves as the chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. For the last six years, he has directed his staff in a comprehensive money-laundering investigation. Levin led Congress' most in-depth examination into the collapse of Enron. That subcommittee's investigative work contributed to the accounting and corporate reforms enacted in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act in July 2002.

Levin is perhaps best known for his efforts to make U.S. government both more efficient and more ethical. He authored the Competition in Contracting Act, which has led to significant reductions in federal procurement costs. His Whistleblower Protection Act protects federal employees who expose wasteful practices.

In his home state, Levin has worked to strengthen the industrial economy and to protect environmental treasures.

He was born in 1934 in Detroit. Levin graduated with honors from Swarthmore College and later graduated from Harvard University Law School. In 1964, he was appointed an assistant attorney general of Michigan and the first general counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission. In 1978, he won an upset victory over the second-ranking Republican in the U.S. Senate, where he has served ever since.

Levin and his wife, Barbara Halpern, are founding members of the Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit. They have three daughters—Kate, Laura and Erica—and five grandchildren.