

## Grafton DTC Honors Three

On Sunday, April 11th the Grafton Democratic Town Committee will host its tenth annual Froment-Moroney Memorial Breakfast. This year the committee will honor three very special Democratic leaders. Lt. Governor Timothy Murray will receive the 10th Froment-Moroney Leadership by Action Award. Grafton resident Linda Casey will receive the 6th John Sullivan Citizen Activist Award. The third GDTC Young Democrat Award will be given to Grafton High School sophomore Aaron Bissell.

Tim Murray was first elected to public office in 1997, winning a seat on the Worcester City Council. He was elected mayor in 2001. After serving three terms as mayor of Worcester, Tim was elected Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 2006, following a historic grassroots campaign alongside Governor Patrick.

As the Governor's lead advocate and liaison to municipalities across Massachusetts, Tim works to foster economic development and advance projects to repair our crumbling road, rail, and bridge infrastructure following years of neglect by prior administrations.

As Chairman of the Governor's Council on Veterans' Services, Tim fights to ensure that Massachusetts offers the nation's most comprehensive

services to veterans and their families, while addressing the new challenges faced by veterans returning home from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Tim and his wife Tammy (Sullivan) are both Worcester natives. They continue to live in that city where they are proudly raising their two daughters, Helen and Katherine.

Linda Marean Casey is a life-long resident of Grafton. She is a parent and a grandparent. She is a former bookseller, and a medical educator, researcher and epidemiologist.

Linda is past Chair of the Grafton Democratic Town Committee, a Registrar of Voters, and President of the Grafton Historical Society. In addition, Linda is a member of the Grafton Historical Commission, the Grafton Community Garden Committee and the 275th Celebration Committee. She is a past chapter leader and national board member of the Worcester Compassionate Friends, a volunteer for the American Red Cross.

Linda produced the Grafton Oral History Project, which featured discussions about Grafton's history with local seniors sharing their recollections of the town's past. She is a past chapter leader and national board member of the Worcester Compassionate Friends, and a vol-

unteer for the American Red Cross.

Aaron Bissell is 16 years old and attends Grafton High School. Aaron and his identical twin brother Eric were born prematurely at 26 weeks gestation and weighed only two pounds each at birth. Both boys had a rough start in life due to their prematurity. Aaron had a tracheostomy and was on oxygen for the first four years of his life. Eric has quadriplegic cerebral palsy and is wheelchair dependent. In 2001 Aaron gained a new brother who is his same age. His new brother Anthony also has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

Aaron became interested in politics by listening to his parents discuss disability advocacy and their work within the disability community. Aaron started watching political television shows and joining in on internet political discussions. He held signs along with his parents during the 2004 presidential election and has been volunteering his time ever since. He loves talking politics and gathering ideas on current issues and events. His main reason for becoming involved in politics has been to advocate for his brothers.

For more information, contact Chet Jakubiak, Chair at (508)839-5574 or Leemarie Fadavi, Treasurer at (508)887-8860.