

IS MARK SCHAUER A BETTER COOK THAN CINDY MCCAIN?

You've no doubt heard that Cindy McCain got caught—again—plagiarizing someone else's recipes.

Frankly, I'm not really sure why we insist our candidates' spouses prove their authenticity by whipping out family recipes they may or may not have (though you'd think Cindy might just avoid getting in trouble the next time by revealing Budweiser's recipe for piss-water).

But I do think there's something to be said for candidates who can negotiate the banal world of everyday existence. When the spouse of the \$100,000,000 Sugar Momma tells Ohioans that the crummy economy is all in their heads, and when the President needs the press corps to tell him that gas is (was) approaching \$4 a gallon, it's gratifying to know that some politicians can still negotiate the little errands that you and I run on a daily basis.

Which is why I think this video of Blue America-endorsed candidate for MI's 7th Congressional District, Mark Schauer, is so cool. Mark's making his wife's pasty recipe (for the uninformed, a "pasty"—with a soft "a": paasty—is the hand-held pot pie that MI's Upper Peninsula is famous for). And doing so damned competently. If you had any doubt he's used this recipe once or twice before, those doubts will be answered by the way he crimps the pie-crust.

And just as importantly, he does the shopping too, knowing from experience which onion to get for the recipe (if this were mr. emptywheel, at the point he got the onion bin, he'd be likely to call me to figure out exactly what we needed).

Now, they've re-released this YouTube as part of

a fundraising gig: Mark's going to pick one donor out of a hat; not only will he make pasty for that donor, but he'll do the dishes, too. So if you're local to MI's 7th CD, see if you can win a pasty from MI 7th's next Congressman. But if you're just feeling the need to support better Democrats this week (I know I am), donate through Blue America.

Cindy's abject failure to produce her own cookie recipe will likely have little effect on whether her husband decides to "bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran." But having a Congressman who knows his way around the average grocery store would sure be a welcome addition to MI's congressional delegation.