

Michigan Political History Society NEWS

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A VERY SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING GOVERNOR WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN

The Michigan Political History Society honored Governor William G. Milliken, one of the most respected political figures in our state's history, on November 18, 2008 at the Laurel Manor in Livonia.

The crowd arrived early to get an opportunity to catch up with old friends--and former adversaries--from the Milliken era. The attendees included former Milliken cabinet members, policy advisors, and judicial appointees. Several veteran media hands, many of whom covered Milliken as Governor, came to pay their respects. Several current and former legislators, from both sides of the aisle, also attended.

Governor Milliken, accompanied by his wife, Helen, and son, Bill, arrived at 6:00. Much of the room gravitated toward the guest of honor. Some shared a few words, while others introduced children, barely old enough to remember the Milliken administration. Dozens of people asked the Governor to autograph copies of David Dempsey's well-regarded biography. Many came armed with mementoes from the 1970's, such as "Milliken/Brickley" pins or "Beefsteak with Bill" steak knives.

Milliken, a Traverse City native, Yale graduate, decorated World War II veteran,



Governor Milliken flashes that famous smile.

and successful businessman, continued family tradition when he was elected to the state senate in 1960. (Both his father and grandfather served in the state senate.) Four years later, he was elected Lieutenant Governor. When George Romney accepted the position of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in President Nixon's cabinet in January 1969, Milliken was sworn in as Michigan's 44th Governor.

Few imagined then that Milliken would serve as Governor for nearly fourteen years. But while his long tenure in office is noteworthy, it is not the distinguishing characteristic of his gubernatorial legacy. From the many stories shared with the crowd throughout the night about the moderate Republican governor a common thread was clear – his ability and desire to reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan fashion was for the betterment of all Michigan residents.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT

MPHS President Dave Murley began the Tribute by explaining MPHS's goals, which include preserving our state's political

history and promoting bi-partisanship and civility. Indeed, Murley noted, MPHS is modeled on Governor Milliken's approach to finding common understanding and treating your political opponents with respect.

"MPHS could really be called the Milliken Political History Society," said Murley.

Murley also emphasized that understanding history – both the facts and the context – is a prerequisite to good

(See **Milliken**, Page 2)



AT A GLANCE

Governor Milliken.....	1
Interview with Larry Glazer.....	6
Judge Ken Sanborn.....	9
Tom Guastello.....	10
Election WrapUp.....	12
Kevin Kelly.....	13
Blanchard Living Library.....	15
In Memory.....	16
Gerald R. Ford Foundation.....	16

MILLIKEN, FROM PAGE 1

public policy. "People in government must understand the past – the problems we have faced, how we confronted them, and what did and did not work in solving them," said Murley. "Otherwise, all we have is facts without historical context or perspective, which will lead to uninformed public policy."

After acknowledging the sponsors of the Tribute, Murley turned the microphone over to the evening's Master of Ceremonies, Peter Fletcher. Fletcher, CEO of Ypsilanti Credit, chaired the Michigan Transportation Commission during the Milliken Administration and also served as GOP National Committeeman. A loyal graduate of the University of Michigan, Fletcher was appointed by Governor Milliken to serve on the MSU Board of Trustees. But those who know him agree with the two word description of him found in the Tribute program: *Sui Generis*--"One of a kind." Fletcher was charged with the impossible task of holding the politician's remarks to under five minutes. Yet he somehow managed to keep the program moving while entertaining the crowd with his humorous quips and advanced vocabulary. After reading a note of gratitude from one of Governor Milliken's former political rivals and current friend, Congressman Sander Levin, Fletcher introduced the first speaker.

SPEAKERS

The night's first speaker was the Hon. Frank Kelley, affectionately known as Michigan's "Eternal General." It is fitting that Michigan's longest serving Governor served exclusively with the state's longest serving Attorney General. Kelley's tenure stretched from 1961 to 1998, giving him the distinction of being both the youngest and oldest Attorney General in the state's history.

Kelley, now a partner at Kelley Cawthorne, a Lansing-based government relations firm, said that the Governor was called to serve, and didn't let partisan politics prevent good public policy. For example, Milliken and Kelley put aside partisan differences to fight for Michigan's first environmental protection legislation.

"Cooperation was the norm, and we were always able to work together," Kelley remarked. "I consider him one of Michigan's all-time great public servants."

Next up was a man someone who rivals Milliken's love of the state - William F. McLaughlin, who served as Republican Party Chairman and Director of the Michigan Department of Commerce before serving as the President of the Metro Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau and Director of the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame.

McLaughlin, the longest serving (1969-79) Michigan Republican Party chairman in history, called Milliken the best ally he could have wished for. "I had the best governor to work with of anyone in the nation on the Republican side," said McLaughlin. "And at that time, there weren't that many states with Republican



Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop, Governor Milliken and Speaker Andy Dillon.

governors. No one could ask for a better ally than Bill Milliken."

The Milliken memory etched in McLaughlin's mind was from August 8, 1974, the day before Gerald R. Ford became the 38th President of the United States. Milliken and McLaughlin were together on Mackinac Island, just two days after Milliken won a primary election with 79 percent of the vote. Yet, while Milliken triumphed, Republicans across the nation faced political peril due to Watergate. "The contrast between Nixon and Milliken was so great," McLaughlin said. "It makes me so proud to know, work with and be a friend of Bill Milliken."

David Baker Lewis had perhaps some of the closest firsthand knowledge of the cooperative and sometimes lively relationship between the former governor and Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, working with both to help Detroit's municipal financing.

Lewis, the founding partner of Lewis & Mundy, the first minority-owned firm to be listed in The Bond Buyer's Directory of Municipal Bond Dealers, gave a glimpse into the storied Milliken-Young working relationship.

The "odd couple," as they were affectionately called, shattered the stereotype of the typically at-odds relationship between a Republican governor and Democrat mayor of the state's largest city, according to Lewis.

Lewis also said that despite their differing backgrounds, they grew to like, respect and trust each other, because both of them believed deeply in public service. Their relationship did not begin when Young was elected Mayor in 1973; it had been established years earlier, when Young served as a State Senator and Milliken served as Lieutenant Governor.

Lewis described how together, Young and Milliken crafted an equity package to compensate the City of Detroit for services provided by the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Institute of the Arts and the Detroit Zoo. Milliken also fought for more federal funding for the Move Detroit Forward effort, gaining \$600 million to improve Detroit mass transit, and for critical federal funding early in the Reagan years.

Milliken created the Governor's Office on Urban Affairs as a call to action to address urban issues across the state, grounded in the firm belief at Detroit's stability was crucial to the stability of the state.

"It was smart of us to reelect him, and it is fitting for the Michigan Political History Society to pay tribute to Milliken to record for posterity that Milliken continues to stand putting the public interest far in front of partisan interest, looking at public problems as problems, not partisan duels," Lewis said. "He continues to remind us of the importance of shattering stereotypes whenever the need arises."

Keith E. Molin brought a unique perspective to the evening, having served as Milliken's legislative liaison, and later as his director of both Michigan Departments of Labor and Commerce.

(See Milliken, Page 3)



Senator Gretchen Whitmer, Richard Whitmer and First Lady Helen Milliken

MILLIKEN, FROM PAGE 2



Dan Musser II, Dan Musser III, and Keith Molin

A fanatical follower of the Maize and Blue, Molin currently serves as the Director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Molin said the most effective tool Milliken deployed was the use of special message to the Legislature. Milliken would identify his priorities, focus on them, and then pressure the legislature to pass them. Molin, addressing the former legislators in the room noted, "Some of you would ask me if the Governor would ever run out of special messages. Our answer was no, because we will never run out of issues. Urban policy, transportation policy, revenue sharing; you name it, and there was a special message." For example, in Milliken's Jan. 22, 1970, State of the State address, he introduced an issue that state government had never before addressed - an Environmental Protection Act for Michigan.

Molin then shared a story with Governor Milliken and invited the crowd to listen. Molin sat in a church pew in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania just prior to the 2006 elections. The minister, a man with no apparent connection to Michigan, discussed the issue of voting with his congregation.

The Minister noted that today's political focus was on winning elections rather than fostering good public policy. Staying on message and spin had taken the place of a genuine exchange of ideas. This began to sound familiar to Molin. The minister added that if some of us are in trouble, all of us are in trouble, and he



Paul Hillegonds, Bill McLaughlin, and David Baker Lewis

criticized those who would waste our time trying only to score political points and win elections instead of focusing on sound and effective public policy.

The minister then admitted that these were not his words, but the words of former Governor Milliken, delivered in a speech at the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce Policy Conference on Mackinac Island. The minister had never met the Governor, but if he did, he would say: "Thank you for having the character to live as a role model for the values we need. Thank you for the commitment to pursue those things you believe strongly to be the public good, and the courage to point out the shortcomings that need to be overcome on behalf of those who come behind us."

To Molin, the story summed up what service with the Governor was like. "Public service was a privilege," Molin said. "But the Governor also made it a pleasure. Thank you, Governor, for not only what you are, but what you helped us to be."

Molin was followed by Joyce M. Braithwaite-Brickley. Braithwaite-Brickley, of Traverse City, was the Governor's executive assistant for political matters and appointments. She also served as an advisor for his campaigns, and managed Milliken's final campaign for Governor in 1978.

Braithwaite-Brickley began her remarks by acknowledging



Joyce Braithwaite-Brickley and Governor Milliken several individuals crucial to the Milliken Team who were viewing the event from a cloud in Heaven, enjoying a martini or a Manhattan--her late husband, James Brickley (Milliken's Lieutenant Governor for eight years and a distinguished Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court), John T. "Jack" Dempsey (Milliken's former Social Services Director), and Elly Peterson (former State GOP Chair), a close friend whom she described as a "rip-snorter" of a woman.

She also acknowledged George Weeks, a noted columnist and Milliken's former chief-of-staff, whom she described as "the heart and the soul" of the Milliken team. George, who currently resides in the Traverse City area, could not attend the evening's events, but played an essential role in making the Tribute a success.

Braithwaite-Brickley remarked on Milliken's ability to lighten the burden of the life in others, and how he kept a constant sense of humor at the ready. She entertained the audience with stories of the governor's wit and charm.

"Politics, as evident in recent months, can get nasty," Braithwaite-Brickley remarked. "One of the most gratifying things about the Michigan Political History Society, and the man you honored tonight, is that you both look at, and strive to preserve, the good side - the positive side of politics, to show that in campaigns you can be critical of another's views, but then come together in a civilized manner and in the interest of history, and for the protection of a high and honorable profession, there is nobility in public service."

(See *Milliken*, Page 4)

MILLIKEN, FROM PAGE 3



Bill Rustem

Braithwaite-Brickley used Milliken as the example that political enemies becoming friends when the smoke of battle clears. Milliken developed a strong relationship with Sandy Levin, who he battled twice for Governor, as well as with Speakers Bobby Crim and Bill Ryan. Milliken appointed Michigan AFL-CIO President Bill Marshall, one of his most critical political opponents, to the Transportation Commission. That appointment, and the trust it engendered, later proved crucial in the area of public transit.

Braithwaite-Brickley noted that Milliken accomplished what he set out to do in his first State of the State address. He said it was his greatest hope that his administration be known for its compassion, idealism and toughness in the pursuit of

public ends.

“And surely, it was, Governor,” said Braithwaite-Brickley, “and it still stands out today, more than 25 years later.”

Bill Rustem took the microphone next. Rustem, the CEO of Public Sector Consultants, began his political career with the governor as an intern. By the end of Milliken’s tenure, he was the Governor’s chief environmental policy advisor and the interim director of the Michigan Toxic Substances Control Commission.

“He (Milliken) brought grace, focus and vision to the office, and left a legacy of progress that continues to contribute today,” Rustem said. “Political reform, including the disclosure of political dollars, lobbying disclosure, the Open Meetings Act, an emphasis on the health of our cities...are all part of that legacy.”

“In the environmental arena, the Natural Resources Trust Fund, the bottle bill, the Environmental Protection Act, the Inland Lakes and Streams Act, the Sand Dunes Act...the list goes on and on.”

Rustem said that Milliken believed that civil discourse about issues leads to positive outcomes; he believed in listening rather than shouting; and he believed that the tough job of forging solutions is much more important than the easy job of creating issues.

Milliken had always told his staff that good public policy is good politics – and Rustem quoted Milliken’s approval ratings to prove that it worked.

Milliken’s approval numbers, according to a 1980 poll: Union members-70%; Democrats-70%; Republicans-87%; Blacks-75%; Catholics-74% Ticket splitters-73%.

Rustem said: “Tell me another politician who had those kind of approval ratings.”

Rustem called Milliken a “Republican of

a different era”– of the party of Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower. His was a Republican Party based on the principles of prudent budgeting, equal opportunity, responsible and sustainable economic development and environmental stewardship.

He cited an interview by Milliken in 1977 on Meet the Press, where Milliken told the nation that the election results ought to be a clear lesson that unless the Republican Party became a more moderate,



Frank Kelley enjoys a Peter Fletcher Joke

broad based party, it was not going anywhere.

“The easy road is to appeal to people’s hates, fears and greed,” Rustem said. “Milliken rejected that road. He believed that public servants had a higher calling to find the best in each of us, to challenge convention, to build a better tomorrow for all, and to find the ties that bring people together rather than wedge them apart.”

After Rustem had concluded his remarks, he introduced the evening’s distinguished guest of honor, who was greeted by a standing ovation. Milliken entertained the audience with stories from our state’s past and thanked the Society for the opportunity to speak, giving the crowd a great deal of hope through a little historical perspective of his own.

“In this era of term limits and short attention spans, the Society’s goals of providing historical perspective to Michigan’s political dialogue is more important, I think, than ever,” remarked Milliken. “The opportunity it creates for the people who are involved in today’s political process to put aside the differences of the moment and take a look at the longer view is especially important in these troubled times.”

Milliken noted that in 1982, his last year of office, a severe recession hit the nation and the state. Auto production that year was the lowest since 1948.

“Those were very, very difficult times, and I shall never, ever forget them,” Milliken said. “But we got through them; Michigan, the nation bounced back –and I have confidence this state and this nation



Roman Gribbs, Ron Thayer and Dave Fink

MILLIKEN, FROM PAGE 4

will get through our current difficulties.”

Milliken said despite our current national difficulties, there is optimism and hope, which flows directly from the results of our recent national election.

“I believe it was a great day for this country and the world that we elected a man of the caliber of Barack Obama to be our next president,” said Milliken. “And I am proud to live in a nation that would take such a huge step forward...I believe he will be a president who will see beyond pure partisanship and will appeal to our highest nature.”

Milliken said if there was ever a time this nation desperately needs to move beyond the meanness, bitterness, and excessive partisanship, it was now. He said that disagreeing on an issue does not make a person an enemy, and that public will not remember the political fights, but rather what our leaders did to move the state forward.

Milliken noted that the advent of term limits had led to a significant erosion of the tone and content of public debate.

“I know of no other line of work where inexperience is considered an asset,” Milliken said.

Milliken’s parting words of wisdom were to focus on good public policy, and stop the partisan bickering.

“If this state, and this nation, are to survive in the 21st Century, good public policy has to start trumping short-sighted, self-serving politics. And that process has to begin now.” And, in Milliken’s opinion, it has.

On behalf of the Michigan Political History Society, thank you, Governor Milliken, for a wonderful evening, for your help on behalf of our organization, and for all that you have done to make Michigan a better place.

Article by Phyllis Washburn

WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN: MICHIGAN’S PASSIONATE MODERATE NOW IN PAPERBACK!

If you enjoyed reading about our Tribute to Governor Milliken, or if you are a fan of Michigan Political History, then you will enjoy reading Dave Dempsey’s “William G. Milliken: Michigan’s Passionate Moderate”.

Dempsey, an environmentalist involved in Michigan politics over the years, has written an engaging, well-researched biography. The book attempts to find those traits that made Milliken such a popular governor, but also to illustrate the challenges he and the state went through during his tenure.

The book first appeared in hardcover three years ago. It enjoyed such success that the University of Michigan Press is now proud to offer it in trade paperback, retailing for \$22.95. If you are interested in ordering, please contact Heather at the University of Michigan Press at newmanh@umich.edu or 800-343-4499. You may also the U of M Press website at www.press.umich.edu.

We at the Michigan Political History Society wish to thank David Dempsey for writing such an important biography!

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Cross-Examining History:

An Interview with JOHN SWAINSON Biographer Larry Glazer

Larry Glazer served as Special Counsel and Legal Advisor to Gov. James Blanchard (from 1983-1987), then served as an Ingham County Circuit Judge for 15 years. After his retirement in 2003, he set out to write the definitive biography of former Michigan Governor John B. Swainson (1925 - 1994). The manuscript was completed in July, and is currently in the hands of the Michigan State University Press, with publication expected in 2009 or early 2010. Larry is a member of MPHS, which awarded him two grants to assist with the expenses of researching Gov. Swainson's life.

Q. Why John Swainson?

A. In a word, drama. His was the most meteoric rise and fall of any major figure in the modern political history of Michigan.

Here's a guy who grows up in a working-class family in Port Huron, plays high school football, then joins the Army. He's sent to France soon after D-Day and, at age nineteen he

is in Patton's Army in France, where he loses both legs to a German land mine.

For a lot of people, that would have ended any possibility of achievement. Yet, just 16 years later, he is elected Governor of Michigan at age 35, the youngest Michigan Governor of the 20th Century. The story of how he did that would make a book all by itself.

But then jump forward 15 more years; he is a Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He's still only 50. There is serious talk of running him to succeed Phil Hart in the U.S. Senate.

Then, he's indicted on federal charges of accepting a bribe and perjury before a grand jury. He is acquitted of the bribery charge, but found guilty of perjury. This forces him to resign from the Supreme Court, and his law license is revoked. In an instant his world changes; he goes from popular to pariah. Not surprisingly, he descends into alcohol and depression.

Q. Did he receive a fair trial?

A. In the strictest technical sense, yes. But at the same time, he was handicapped by two difficulties.

The first problem was of his own making. He purposely chose an attorney without criminal law experience. He felt that employing an experienced criminal lawyer would make it look like he had something to hide. This was a terrible mistake on his part.

The second problem was pretty unusual, and beyond his control. Under our Constitution, a defendant in a criminal case has the right to confront the witnesses against him - in other words, to cross-examine them. But there is a little-known exception, called the "co-conspirator" rule. Under that rule, if there is any evidence at all which could support a finding of conspiracy, then the statements of one of the alleged conspirators may be used against the other alleged conspirators, and this trumps the right to cross-examine.

In Swainson's case, the government alleged that a bail bond agent, Harvey Wish, solicited \$20,000 from a convicted burglar named John Whalen, and promised Whalen that he could get his conviction reversed in the Michigan Supreme Court.

Unknown to Wish, the burglar Whalen was also an FBI informant. Whalen wore a wire and recorded Wish bragging about his relationship with Swainson, and asserting that Swainson would get Whalen's conviction overturned.

After the Michigan Supreme Court did, in fact, reverse Whalen's conviction, a federal prosecutor persuaded a grand jury to indict both Wish and Swainson.

Since Harvey Wish was himself a defendant, he had the right, under the Fifth Amendment, to decline to take the stand at the trial. The government could still use his statements - recorded secretly by Whalen - as evidence against Swainson. But, because Harvey Wish declined to take the stand, Swainson's attorney could not cross-examine Wish.

Q. How did you learn of these details?

A. Whenever a defendant appeals his conviction, a transcript of the trial is created. I knew that Swainson had

(See *Swainson*, Page 7)



Swainson in Basic training 1943-44

Swainson, from Page 6

appealed, so there had to be a transcript. I located it in federal storage in Chicago, and arranged to have it sent to Michigan. I used a digital camera on a tripod to copy it - all 1,957 pages. Then I went over it with the proverbial fine-tooth comb, making charts to compare the testimony of the witnesses. I had the luxury of time, which the attorneys in the trial did not have, and I found some significant things that they missed.

Q. Did you interview any of the witnesses or attorneys?

A. Yes. I located an FBI agent who testified, and the only surviving attorney of the prosecution team, as well as Swainson's defense attorney and appellate attorney.

I also found and interviewed three other persons who witnessed some significant things, but who were never called to testify at the trial. One of them was Swainson's Supreme Court law clerk at the time of these events.

I also tracked down Harvey Wish, who had pretty much disappeared after the trial (he was convicted of conspiracy). It took months of work to find him. Using techniques I learned from a retired private investigator, I finally located him, in another state, through real property records.

Along the way, I had discovered a person I was pretty sure was his daughter. I decided to contact her first, explain what I was doing, and ask her to convey my request for an interview to her father. She did that, and he agreed to be interviewed. Until we spoke, he had never publicly

commented on any of this.

Q. Did you speak with any political figures from the Swainson era?

A. I interviewed Frank Kelley, who was appointed Attorney General by Swainson; Thomas Brennan, who is the last surviving member of the Supreme Court that decided the Whalen case; Joe Collins, who - at age 25 - managed Swainson's 1960 campaign for Governor; Tom Cleary, who served under Sandy Brown in the State Treasury Department; and Jerry Roe, who worked as executive of the Michigan Republican Party, but also became friends with Swainson. Bernie Klein, who served as Comptroller in Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh's administration, was also close to Swainson. I also interviewed Gov. William Milliken, who admired Swainson and had the sad duty of accepting his resignation.

Unfortunately, a lot of the major figures of that era had passed from the scene before I began this project. I wish I could have spoken with Zolton Ferency, who served as Swainson's staff chief when he was Governor, and Mildred Jeffries, a power in both the UAW and Democratic Party, who was a close friend of Swainson's and was instrumental in his rise (and I'm proud to say she was also a friend of mine).

Purely by luck, I was given access to a private manuscript of some 350 pages, written by the late Dr. John Dempsey, who served as one of George Romney's senior advisors in the 1962 campaign for Governor against Swainson. Dr. Dempsey's son, David Dempsey, was a colleague of mine in the Blanchard Administration, and wrote a very well-received biography of Gov. William Milliken, as you know. I contacted him early in the process of researching my book, just for general advice, and he told me he had this manuscript, in which his father narrates the whole 1962 campaign from his perspective inside the Romney camp.

Q. Did you find a lot of written records?

A. John Swainson left his papers to the Bentley Historical Library in Ann Arbor, and I made 12 visits there. I also consulted archives in Adrian and Port Huron, and went to the State of Michigan Library so many times, I lost count. I also was able to view some old files of the Michigan Attorney General's Organized Crime Unit. At the end, I had copied and organized over 10,000 pages.

Q. Did your research produce any surprises?

A. Yes, quite a few.

For instance, I found that Swainson and President Kennedy were quite friendly, and spent time together both in Michigan and Washington. They had a lot in common, and admired each other. After learning this, I was puzzled that no one recalled JFK offering Swainson any federal job after his 1962 defeat by George Romney. I felt that, given their relationship, the President would have made some offer.

And it turns out he did. I found it in an oral history transcript from the JFK Library. It was a serious offer; the President's assistant, Kenneth O'Donnell, followed up with Swainson. But in the end, he declined the appointment.

Another major surprise, at least to me, was the importance of Jimmy Hoffa in the creation of the modern



Governor John Swainson

(See Swainson, Page 8)

Swainson, from Page 7



Swainson with Kennedy, 1960 Campaign

Michigan Democratic Party. Neil Stabler, G. Mennen Williams, Hicks and Martha Griffiths - the founders - were fighting Hoffa for control of the party, long before Hoffa became a well-known public figure.

In addition, I was surprised at the influence Michigan AFL leader Gus Scholle had on the history of Michigan and, really the political history of our nation. More than any other individual, he was responsible for the coming of one person-one vote as the law of the land. He was brilliant, a self-educated human dynamo. And you wouldn't want him for an enemy.

I incorporated short biographies of many of these people, as well as George Romney, into the book.

Q. In the book do you offer any of your own judgments?

A. I do express opinions, in several sections of the book, but those sections are clearly identified as opinion.

Given my background in law and criminal trials, I felt an obligation to analyze the trial and express an opinion on whether John Swainson was guilty or innocent, based on all the evidence, including things the jury never heard.

And, given my experience in politics,

I felt comfortable reaching some conclusions about Swainson's strengths and weaknesses as a political leader, also supported by evidence.

Finally, many of John Swainson's surviving friends believe that the bribery prosecution was politically motivated. At this late date, that can neither be conclusively proven nor disproven, but I felt able to offer a tentative conclusion, based on circumstantial evidence.

Q. What happened to Swainson after the trial?

A. Recovery from the loss of his reputation was much more difficult for him than recovery from the loss of his legs. But in the end, he did recover. And he found a way to make yet another significant contribution to Michigan, as an historian.

He persevered, against all odds, his whole life.



Swainson shows two young people that he, too, is an amputee and tells them that they, too, can lead a fulfilling life.

Photos courtesy of Carroll Whitehead

Catching up with . . .

KEN SANBORN



Judge Ken Sanborn

By TIMOTHY JAMES ALBERTA

It's hard to tell whether Judge Ken Sanborn is bragging or seething when he quietly refers to himself as "probably the oldest chief judge in Michigan."

Either way, the former circuit court judge, state legislator and justice of the peace shows no signs of slowing down. In fact, last June he was appointed Macomb County's chief probate judge by the Michigan Supreme Court because of problems with the county's probate court.

"I'm 82 years old and still going strong," he said with a chuckle. Asked for tips on longevity, he quickly replied, "Work hard."

Is that all?

"Work hard, eat right and get out every day and walk."

This recipe must be a winner coming from a man who has served Michigan in almost every imaginable capacity over the last fifty-some years. While he made a name for himself in the Judiciary and Legislature, Sanborn's original brush with fame came much earlier: at age 26, fresh out of the University of Detroit's law school, when he lent a helping hand to a friend in need.

In 1953, at the height of the McCarthy Period, the United States Air Force discharged Milo Radulovich, a Michigan-born lieutenant of Serbian descent, claiming he was a "security risk." The reason? He maintained a close relationship with his father and sister, who were considered by the military to be Communists or at least Communist sympathizers. The story, which quickly gained national attention due to Edward R. Murrow's reporting, had a personal effect on Sanborn, who had attended pre-aviation cadet programs and studied engineering with Radulovich.

"I was in the Air Force with Milo, and I knew the charges against him were unrealistic—I knew him to be a very patriotic person," Sanborn said. "I got involved when I read an article about it in the Detroit News... I called Milo and told him I wanted to help, so he referred me

to Charles Lockwood."

Lockwood, the attorney for Radulovich, was ecstatic to receive Sanborn's call. "When I called him and volunteered my services, he was happy to accept," Sanborn said. "Of course it was pro-bono, meaning we were both working without fees. But I volunteered because I thought the Air Force had made a terrible mistake."*

The 26-year-old recent law school graduate must have turned some heads, because from there on out, Ken Sanborn was a man in high demand. He started as Justice of the Peace in Clinton Township in Macomb County, where he served from 1951-1956. "The Justice of the Peace took complaints and issued warrants and held preliminary examinations of serious crimes—it's what district judges do now," he said.

Then, in 1956, Sanborn was elected to the state Legislature, where he served one term in the House. "I was 30 years old when I was elected and had always been interested in politics, and I thought having legal background, I could be of some help in Legislature," he said.

Sanborn won despite running as a Republican in what we would now call a "blue" district. "I rode in on General Eisenhower's coat-tails... mine was a Democratic district, but I managed to pull it off for one term," he laughed. "In 1958—when Ike wasn't running—I lost by narrow margin."

Leaving the Legislature allowed Sanborn to gain additional government experience. From 1959 to 1961 Sanborn worked as Clinton Township supervisor while simultaneously serving on the Macomb County board of supervisors. Then, from 1962 to 1968 he was a member of board of trustees at Macomb Community College. Sanborn eventually became chairman of the board and oversaw the construction of two campuses. It would be his final stop before joining the Judiciary.

"I first served as a probate judge in Macomb County from 1972 until 1978, and I was originally appointed by Gov. William Milliken," Sanborn said. "Then, from 1978 until 1990, I was a circuit judge in Macomb County, and there again I was appointed by Milliken. Since that time I've served as a visiting judge in the Michigan court of appeals, various circuit courts, district courts and probate courts."

Reflecting upon his time in the Legislature and Macomb County politics, Sanborn said he feels fortunate to have had any success in a county where Republicans have traditionally failed. "When I moved to Macomb County in 1950, it had become a Democratic stronghold," he said. "The first Republican that won at the county level was Candice Miller as county treasurer. She was the only Republican to win at the county level since the 1940s."

Sanborn said Macomb County politics have largely echoed the trends set at the national level—when Republicans enjoyed national success, they usually did in Macomb, too. "The Democratic county officials were very popular and strong vote-getters during the sixties and seventies, which made quite a difference," he said. "But when Reagan came along, he was very popular and brought out the so-called 'Reagan Democrats,' but then Bush and Bush Jr. came into office and the Reagan Democrats went back to their party.

"It looked for a while like Macomb would go Republican, but it didn't work out that way—probably because we didn't have a president like Reagan," Sanborn said. "National office made quite a difference on the county. Today, the economy is so bad that everyone is just going back and voting Democratic. They have to blame somebody, so they're blaming Bush."

Recounting his days in Lansing, Sanborn has nothing but positive things to say about his colleagues from the other side of the aisle. "When I was there, Macomb had three representatives and one senator," he said. "We had William Romano from Warren, John

(See **Sanborn**, Page 10)

* For those wishing to learn more about the Radulovich saga, and the role Ken Sanborn played in it, please see Mike Ranville's "To Strike at a King".

SANBORN, FROM PAGE 9

T. Bowman from Roseville, myself from Clinton Township, and George Steeh was our state senator—they were all Democrats. Things were different back then in Lansing—Steeh and Bowman were my roommates at the Olds Hotel. We were all close...things were a lot friendlier in those days. We drove together and roomed together and were very close friends.”

As if his own accomplishments weren't enough, Sanborn has something else to help carry on his legacy: his son, Alan, a Republican senator from Macomb County. Bucking the Democratic trend in a blue county, it's obvious that with Alan, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

“I'm very proud of him, but I should point out that he's more conservative than I am,” Sanborn said. “He was voted as the most conservative senator in the Michigan Senate...I was more of a moderate Republican, which I understand isn't too popular now. But trust me, when the Republican Party realizes the need to become more moderate, we'll pick up a lot more votes.”

Sanborn said despite their unique distinction as father and son politicians, they rarely discuss legislation or politics. “We might get into arguments,” he laughed. “Alan is a very good, strong family man and we have a very close family relationship, but we don't discuss individual legislation very often.”

But what if they did? Between father and son, judge and lawmaker, who would emerge victorious? “He's the one with the voting power,” Sanborn laughed, “so I would have to say he would come out on top.”



Judge Sanborn swears in son, Alan, to the Michigan Senate. Alan's uncle, retired Judge Richard Liedel, holds the Bible.



Tom Guastello in the 1970s
(Photo courtesy of the State of Michigan Archives)

By **TIMOTHY JAMES ALBERTA**

The 1960's were a turbulent political time for America's youth. While many young people were rebelling against the establishment by experimenting with drugs and protesting the Vietnam War, Thomas Guastello was busy stumping for politicians and contemplating an eventual campaign of his own.

“It had really never occurred to me,” Guastello said of a career in

CATCHING UP WITH... Tom Guastello

politics. “But frankly, in 1960, JFK was a pretty inspiring guy. That was the time when I began thinking about it.” Despite his early disinterest, political seeds had been sewn at a young age by Guastello's father, a grocery store owner and “political activist” in their hometown of St. Clair Shores.

A few years later, while doing undergraduate work at Michigan State University, Guastello got a firsthand look at the political process by interning with the Senate in Lansing. “It was a vibrant time when I was going to MSU. People were interested in change, politics, religion,” Guastello said. “It's a little like that now in some ways. It was an exciting time because we had this great hope that we could accomplish a lot and help change the world.”

It didn't take long for Guastello to fully immerse himself in Michigan's political realm. By the time he graduated from MSU and began attending law school, he was beginning to hear his calling to politics—a calling that came loud and clear when he

noticed his local district, which encompassed the northern half of Macomb County, was increasing in population.

Guastello said, “We felt the district was beginning to lean more Democratic, especially with the growth we saw in the south end of the district. The incumbent was a Republican from the northern end of the district. I was tracking to complete law school and become a lawyer, but when we looked at the district and I realized that I could immediately become a lawmaker, it was a pretty attractive option.”

Guastello knew his youth would be a factor in his campaign, but sought to offset his lack of experience by making education the paramount platform of his candidacy. “Age was an issue, but it was a young district,” he said. “My opponent talked about it on occasion, but not much. My district was very

(See **Guastello**, Page 11)

GUASTELLO, FROM PAGE 10

favorable toward education, so we put in a lot of work around the district, trying to speak with people one on one and talk about education and schools."

His plan worked, and in 1968 Guastello was elected to Michigan's House of Representatives. "I decided to make my move at the ripe old age of 24," he laughed. "I was approaching my last year of school and didn't have a lot of money, but I had lots of energy and good health and was able to get elected.

"When I got to the House, there weren't a lot of young people at all," he recalled. "In your twenties you definitely were a bit of an exception...it was interesting to fit in."

Fitting in didn't seem to be a problem. In his second term, he was named Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Two of Guastello's proudest accomplishments are working on the Open Meetings Act and the Criminal Sexual Conduct sections of the Michigan Penal Code, which better defined the burden of proof necessary to secure a conviction.

"It was an exciting time to revise some old statutes as the Chair of that committee, and we were fortunate enough to get a lot of bills through," Guastello said. "The House was Democratic, the Senate was Republican and the governor was Bill Milliken—a Republican—but we worked well together and got a lot of legislation through."

After three terms in the House, Guastello decided it was time to move on, this time eyeing a Senate seat that had been newly-created in 1974 because of the 1970 census. "Because my House district was the largest population-wise, it had almost become its own Senate district, so it was easy for me to run with no incumbent there," Guastello said. "But I really had to think hard about whether I wanted to run for the Senate or not—I really enjoyed chairing the Judiciary Committee."

Upon joining the Senate, which Guastello called "a different atmosphere, a smaller forum which was easier to navigate," he joined the crucial Appropriations Committee. In his first two years, he worked to pass two significant pieces of legislation: The first, the Consumer Protection Act, was a joint effort with Attorney General Frank Kelley. The second, which Guastello spent more than two years working on, entailed working with members of the auto industry to suspend the sales tax on used vehicles.

"Appropriations was a great committee to be on for my growing district," Guastello said. "We had a big impact on roads and other public services for our constituents."

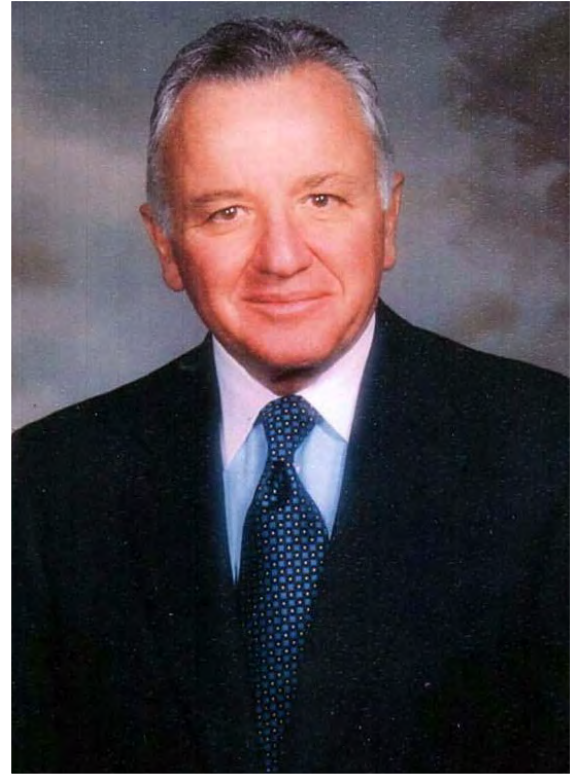
Guastello's Senate run was short-lived, however. "As I started my second Senate term, I had a young family and it was quite a ride to Lansing from my district," he said. "I made the decision to leave the Legislature and spend more time practicing law."

"I had practiced law since 1970, but as the field grew I started looking at municipal law and development, and finally in 1982, I was able to devote most of my time to that practice. I saw pumpkin patches turn into shopping malls."

Regional and national chains wanted to come into Michigan and needed local counsel. "I represented them to obtain sites, zoning, financing, and entitlements," he said.

As a result, Guastello started developing neighborhood shopping centers and buildings and leased them to regional and national tenants. On a number of occasions when he liked the concept he would buy the building and lease it back to the company. Chi-Chis's was one of the first chains that Guastello helped develop in Michigan. With this experience, Guastello was able to work with and invest in other national chains and hotels.

More than 25 years later, he's shown no signs of slowing



Tom Guastello today

down. As owner and president of Center Management in Birmingham, Guastello said his job is "still a rush" but is quick to admit, "If someone would have told me how hard this is, I probably never would have done it."

Guastello also served by appointment of Governor Blanchard as a Regent at Eastern Michigan University. Governor Engler appointed Guastello to the Mackinac Bridge Authority, where Guastello chaired the Finance Committee.

Today's brand of politics isn't what Guastello envisioned when he first ventured into government nearly half a century ago as a teenager. Reflecting upon his time in office, he minces no words when addressing the state of politics today, especially in Lansing. "The term limits have been terrible for our state... this is going to be pure chaos for Michigan, because the majority of people in Lansing are void of any legislative experience," he said. "You couldn't run a corporation like that...you can't run a state with a multi-million dollar budget like that."

Guastello said the difference between politics then and now is the partisan divide that grows wider with each year. "There was partisanship back then, but it stopped at the point where the state came to screeching halt. I think partisanship in proper form is very productive—it fosters debate and forms compromise. But when it has to be one persons' way or the other it's very destructive. I have nothing but good things to say about Milliken...we didn't agree on everything but it was a good, healthy environment."

According to Guastello, the worst aspect of today's bitter partisanship is how it has changed the public's perception of their elected officials. "Back then, when you told people you wanted to go into government or run for elected office, it was positive and had a much different connotation than it does now," Guastello said.

"It wasn't the blood sport that it is today. These days, it can be very vicious, very personal and biased, and it's sad that it has gone that way. We ran tough but fair campaigns. Public service was considered a noble calling."

Election Year '08:

THE BIRTAKNOW

The Michigan Political History Society, in conjunction with the Michigan Political Leadership Program, sponsored a well-attended two hour event to analyze this year's election results on Friday, Nov. 21, 2008. The attendees were treated to a three part analysis of the 2008 election by prominent pollsters, pundits and researchers.



Susan Demas, DeAmo Murphy, and Bill Ballenger

The "Off-The-Record, On-the-Road!" event, moderated by *OTR's* Tim Skubick and held at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center, began with an analysis of the election data by pollsters Bernie Porn of EPIC-MRA and Steve Mitchell of Mitchell Research. The two pollsters pointed to three reasons why Barack Obama and the Democrats were so successful – record turnout, fundraising capabilities and the economic crisis.

In Mitchell's estimation, people voted for who they thought would have the best answer to fix the economy. Of those polled, 63 percent said this was the most important issue, which, not surprisingly, was the percentage Obama received in Michigan. He also gave credit to Obama for his ability to turn out the vote, along with his charisma and fundraising abilities.

According to Porn, the biggest reason people opposed McCain was his vice-presidential choice, Sarah Palin. This was closely followed by his perceived connection to President George W. Bush. The biggest surprise in the 2008 election for the two pollsters was Diane Hathaway's Supreme Court victory over Cliff Taylor.

Researcher Nat Ehrlich of MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research presented next and examined the youth vote, including their motivations and impact. Among those observed by Ehrlich, he determined that it was social issues that ultimately drove them to the voting booths. Ehrlich's research also showed that the youthful independents broke overwhelmingly for Obama, by a four to one ratio. Mitchell and Porn concurred in this analysis.

The pundits then took over the stage. Bill Ballenger of Inside Michigan Politics noted that Democrats picked up county seats for the third straight election for the first time in history, netting close to 100 seats in that span. Ballenger also opined that the Michigan Republican Party was in the worst shape since its inception.

Susan Demas of Michigan Information and Research Service, Inc (MIRS) opined that Democrats were light years ahead of Republicans in using new media technologies to organize, fundraise and advertise.

DeAmo Murphy of Blocker and Associates, Inc. added that the paradigm shift in campaign strategy by Obama was hard to fight against. Without knowing the strategy and organization of the new complex system, it was hard for McCain – or anyone - to run an effective counter campaign.

The attendees were greatly entertained by the lively interplay between Skubick, the audience and the panelists. All in all, this was yet another great event staged with the help of the Michigan Political History Society and its members.



Bernie Porn, Steve Mitchell

In Memory. . .

KEVIN KELLY

A Tribute to Kevin A. Kelly Friend and Co-Founder of the The Michigan Political History Society

"A firm foundation is necessary for any building, institution, or individual to endure."

Elder Russell M. Nelson

The Michigan Political History Society (MPHS) is a successful and enduring organization today because Kevin A. Kelly had a concept that the State of Michigan would be well served by having an organization that captures its political history for posterity. His mind's eye visualized the benefit of current leaders learning from the successes—and failures—of our former leaders. His ever-present positive spirit led him to say, "build it and they will come." His organizational skills led to a strong foundation of people who were persuaded by Kevin's vision and enthusiasm. As a result, the Michigan Political History Society was born in 1993 and thrives as an organization unique in the world.

It was August 1992 when a small group (Richard McLellan, Sharman Moore, Carol and Paul Conn, and Kevin and Jamie Kelly) met for dinner at Beggar's Banquet. Within days following that evening of political discussion, Sharman received the book "Three Bullets Sealed His Lips" from Kevin and Jamie Kelly. The book documents the events surrounding the assassination of Michigan State Senator Warren G. Hooper on January 11, 1945. This book ultimately led to the formation of the Michigan Political History Society and its inaugural event "Murder at the English Inn." That event was held at Dusty's

(See **Kevin Kelly**, Page 14)



Jamie Kelly and Kevin Kelly, Dusty's English Inn in Eaton Rapids, for MPHS's inaugural event "Murder at the English Inn," Nov. 14, 1993



KEVIN KELLY
Executive Director,
Michigan State Medical Society

A PARADE NAMED LEADERSHIP

*You walked people to places they never
imagined they would stand.
You stood with them.*

*You walked people to places they hoped
to go – but could not conceive the way.
Once there – you stood with them &
broadened their view even more.*

*You were an excellent vehicle. An
Inviter. One who drew from before
and enticed. Once who coached from
behind and inspired. Shoulder to
shoulder, you extended camaraderie,
deep humor & shared vision.*

*What pleasure – to have marched
in a parade which shall always be
remembered as you.*



Kevin Kelly and Dan Musser III in the Grand Hotel for MPHS's "Legislative History of the Mackinac Bridge" event, Oct. 14, 1995

In Memory. . .

KEVIN KELLY

Continued from Page 13

English Inn on Nov 14, 1993, led by the authors of “Three Bullets Sealed His Lips”, Dr. Bruce A. Rubenstein and Dr. Lawrence E. Ziewacz. It was Kevin who initiated contact with the authors and Dusty’s English Inn to arrange this event along with preparing the invitation list. Over 80 of Kevin’s friends and colleagues attended this event – and MPHS was set in stone from that day forward.

Kevin, while always in the background and assuming no credit, encouraged and persuaded many to lend their skills to the myriad tasks of formalizing an organization, e.g., Attorney Tom Downs wrote the Bylaws and helped secure the 501c3 non-profit status; Joyce Crum provided the critical office support. Kevin persuaded Sharman Moore and Jamie Kelly to serve as the organization’s first President and Vice-President, respectively. In his role as Secretary/Treasurer, Kevin recruited twenty-two friends and colleagues to serve as members of the Board of Directors and sixty-two individuals became paid Charter Members. Ultimately, MPHS membership grew to 400 members.

Kevin’s vision of broadly sharing the State’s political history from a non-partisan perspective revolved around public seminars focused on key political events, led by informed speakers who shared disparate views and recollections. Books highlighting our political history are showcased in presentations by and conversations with the authors. A high quality MPHS Newsletter was produced, again sharing the stories of people on the front lines as the political history was being written. The newsletter is now more broadly available on the MPHS website: www.miphs.com. A cornerstone of the MPHS initiatives, oral histories videotaped for broad distribution, has been successful largely due to Kevin’s leadership in raising funds to underwrite the costs and facilitating sometimes reluctant but politically important figures to be interviewed. These oral histories, which were first recorded in the mid-1990’s and have now been incorporated into the James J. Blanchard Living Library of Michigan Political History, will soon be broadcast on Michigan Government Television (MGTV). Recent events honoring House Speaker Paul Hillemonds, Attorney General Frank Kelley and Governors James J. Blanchard and William G. Milliken have generated sufficient funding to insure these initiatives will continue in the future.

One of Kevin’s major goals for MPHS was to encourage civility amongst all those involved in the governance of the State of Michigan and, indeed, of the United States. An article on *Civility* was written for the MPHS January 1995 newsletter. In April 1996, Peter Blute, Congressman from the 3rd District, Massachusetts, replied to Kevin’s request for a pledge to civility. Congressman Blute returned 70 signatures of congressmen pledging

“To respect the people who elected us through proper public conduct, including honoring and showing consideration to one’s colleagues regardless of ideology or personal feels; to promote civility, comity and adherence to House rules over party loyalty; and to follow these guidelines as the presiding officer in making rulings and as Members in adhering to those rulings.”

Kevin was the ‘rock’ on which the Michigan Political History Society was founded. His leadership throughout its 16-year history has created not only a strong, viable organization but also one that will continue to serve as the educational conduit from our past to our current and future leaders. His vision, energy and enthusiasm for doing the right thing for the right reasons have been actively and continually embraced by his successors in the MPHS. We honor all that he was able to accomplish in his amazing life and his spirit is forever within our hearts.

Kevin A. Kelly passed away on December 15, 2008, at the age of 52. His memorial service on January 14, 2009 included reaffirmations of Kevin’s many contributions in remarks by Governor Jennifer Granholm and MSU President LouAnna Simon, among others. We were, indeed, honored to be in his presence on this earth. If you would like to honor Kevin’s memory, contributions may be made to the Kevin A. Kelly Action Fund, c/o Capital Region Community Foundation, 6035 Executive Dr., Suite 104, Lansing, MI 48911, a charitable fund established in Kevin’s honor to continue Kevin’s mission of helping those in need.

Blanchard Living Library of Michigan Political History

In October 2007, MPHS held a tribute to Governor James J. Blanchard. That event not only celebrated his tenure as Governor, but also led to the creation of the James J. Blanchard Living Library of Michigan Political History.

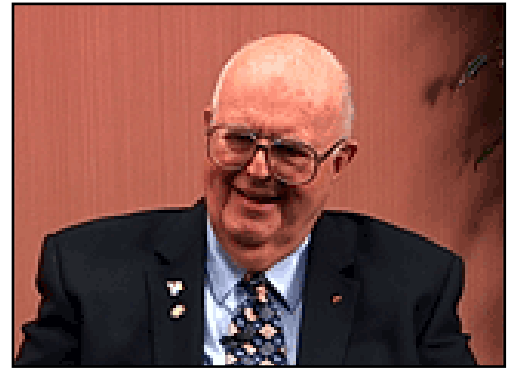
The purpose of the library is to record the stories of the men and women who shaped Michigan's political landscape and played a vital role in forming the policies of our state. The interviews, which are conducted by Lynn Jondahl and Bill Ballenger, are recorded on DVD. These DVD interviews will then be sent to the major

university libraries, the State Library of Michigan and Michigan Government Television. Copies of particular interviews will also be made available to interested MPHS members or members of the public.

Recent additions to the Blanchard Library include interview with:

- GOP Committeeman Peter Fletcher
- GOP Chair Bill McLaughlin
- Speaker of the House Gary Owen

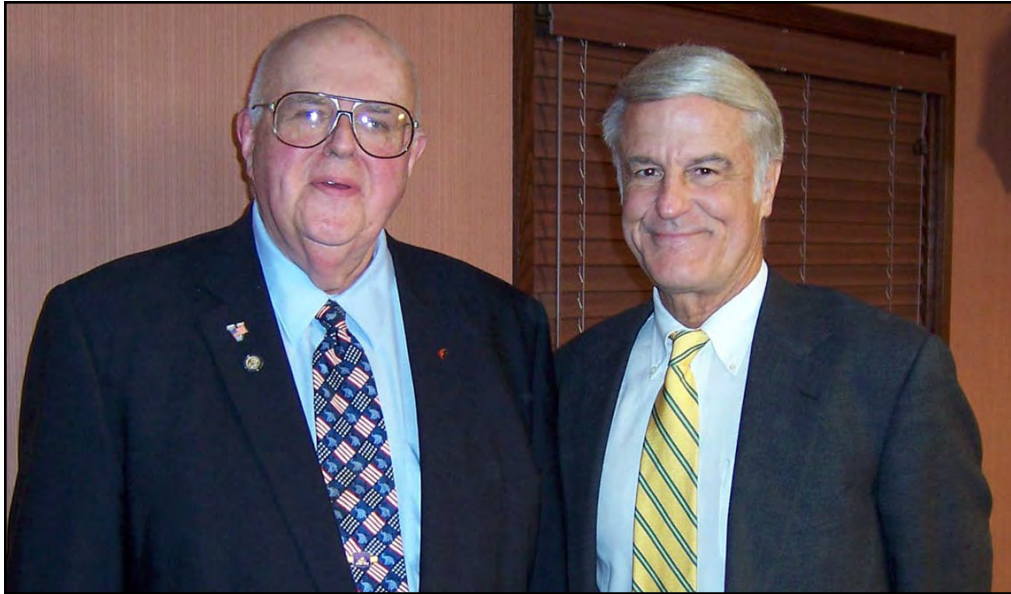
For a complete list of our oral histories, please visit our website at www.Miphs.com



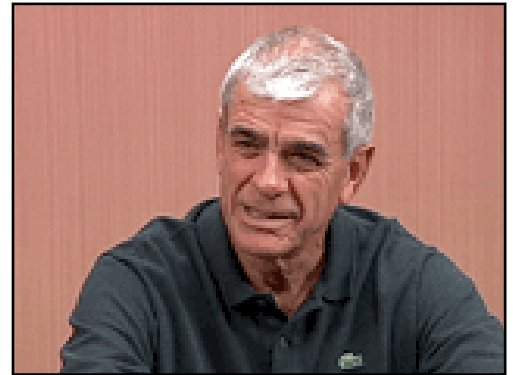
Peter Fletcher



Bill McLaughlin



Peter Fletcher and Bill Ballenger



Gary Owen

New Life Members

The Michigan Political History Society re-introduced its life membership plan in 2007. A life membership plan--which runs \$300 for an individual or family--relieves a person from ever again having to pay dues to MPHS. The life membership fee is invested in the MPHS Endowment, the interest from which helps to support MPHS's mission. Thus, when you join as a life member, your gift helps support MPHS today, and for many years in the future.

Interested in joining as a life member? Please contact Linda Cleary at Linda.Cleary@sbcglobal.net or (517) 333-7996. You may also purchase a life membership for another person, or join as a life member in honor of another person. A full list of our life members can be found at www.miphs.com/lifetimemembership.doc.

We would like to thank the following persons for joining as life members in 2009:

Tom Scott • Don and Jane Booth
Freman Hendrix • Amy Hodgkin

THANK YOU FROM MPHS. . .

The Michigan Political History Society wishes to express its sincere thanks to DYKEMA PLLC for all the services it provides to our organization. DYKEMA PLLC maintains the MPHS website; provides invaluable legal services; and provides office space for meetings.

We would also like to thank the Michigan State Medical Society for its incredible contribution to our organization. As many of our readers know, the Michigan Political History Society was originally housed in the MSMS. Kevin Kelly and Joyce Crum at MSMS always arranged to take care of the details--bill payments, membership notices, etc.--that can bog down any organization. The Michigan Political History Society is now completely autonomous from MSMS. But, without the assistance of the Medical Society in our first decade, MPHS would not be here today.

So, to DYKEMA PLLC, the Michigan State Medical Society, and other companies and associations that provide valuable goods and services to our organization, thank you.

In Memory

Robert “Doug” Trezise—One of the countless “Yoopers” who made their mark in Lansing, Doug was born in Ironwood, Michigan in 1925. A World War II veteran, he graduated from Michigan State College before settling in Owosso. Active in local government and politics throughout the 1950’s and 60’s, Doug was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1970 and re-elected in 1972 before running for the Senate. From 1975 until 1990, he served both Governor Milliken and Governor Blanchard as Michigan’s Deputy State Treasurer.

Donald Holbrook, Jr.—A former JAG officer in the U.S. Air Force, he was first elected to the Michigan House of Representatives from Claire in 1964 and served three additional terms, a service distinguished by his outstanding work on the House Judiciary Committee. He was elected to the Circuit Court in 1972 and elected to the Court of Appeals in 1974 (for a 10-year term!) and re-elected three times. He became the longest-serving judge in the history of the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Bela Kennedy—A native of Bangor, Michigan, Bela was born in 1918 and graduated from Michigan State before entering the farming business. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1971 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Rep. Edson Root. During his House tenure, he was active in re-writing the Public Health Code. He served in the House until 1982.

Robert Blackwell—Mr. Blackwell was elected Mayor of Highland Park in 1968, and gained notoriety as the first black Republican Mayor in the United States. He was defeated for re-election in 1975, switched parties, and was re-elected Mayor in 1979. A native of Mississippi, he moved to Michigan in 1950, worked for Chrysler, and served three terms as President of his UAW local.

William Keith—An Army veteran, former professional musician, and renowned singer, Bill was first elected to the House in 1972. Representing Garden City, Bill eventually became chair of the House Education Committee where he known for his advocacy on behalf of public education. He served in the House until 1994.

Robert L. Fitzke—Bob graduated from Western Michigan University and served in the U.S. Navy. He served as the first executive director of Delta Dental. Suffering a stroke at only 46 years old, Bob enrolled in law school and, at age 50, graduated from Thomas M. Cooley. After Law School, he served as the Michigan Senate Democratic General Counsel, working with Basil Brown on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Paul Todd, Jr.—Paul came from a family of public servants. His grandfather, Albert M. Todd, served in Congress, and his father, Paul Todd, served as Mayor of Kalamazoo. Paul Jr. served in the U.S. Army and the O.S.S. in World War II and founded the Kalamazoo Spice Extraction Company (now Kalsec) in 1958. He was elected to Congress in 1964, defeating incumbent Republican August Johansen. He served one term before Garry Brown unseated him in 1966. He served as President of Planned Parenthood until 1970. Governor Milliken appointed him to the State Board of Ethics.

Tom Husband—Tom grew up in the Detroit area and served as a naval aviator during the Vietnam War. After graduating from Michigan State, he served as Chief of Staff to House Speaker Bobby Crim and from 1981-83 served as Clerk of the House of Representatives. He founded his own lobbying firm--Husband and Associates--which he headed for 25 years.

Robert “Bob” Weiss—Bob, a native of Flint, became active in Democratic politics early in his career. In the mid-1970’s, he served as special litigation counsel in the Watergate civil proceedings. Elected Genesee County Prosecutor, he served as President of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan. He was elected to the MSU Board of Trustees in 1988, and served in that role before Governor Engler appointed him Genesee County Probate Judge.

Richard A. Sofio—Richard, a graduate of Northern Michigan, a high school government teacher and long-serving county commissioner, served Michigan’s 110th District (the Western U.P) from 1987-1990. In his second term, he chaired the House Forestry and Mineral Committee.

Harmon G. Cropsey—Harmon, born in Cass County, served as a decorated B-24 pilot and navigator during World War II. After decades of farming and civic involvement, he won a special election in 1981 to fill the state House seat vacated by Mark Siljander, who had won a special election to fill David Stockman’s Congressional seat. In the House, Harmon joined his son, Alan, who had been elected in 1978. Harmon was elected to the Senate in 1982 and re-elected in 1986, representing Cass, St. Joseph, and most of Kalamazoo Counties. In the Senate, he chaired the Local Government and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Aldo Vagnozzi—Born in Italy in 1925, Aldo moved to the United States and, like many of his generation, served in World War II. Aldo had a long and fruitful career as a journalist, where he covered events such as the Michigan Constitutional Convention for the AFL-CIO Labor News. He served as Mayor of Farmington Hills before his election to the Michigan House in 2002. He served three terms before being forced out by term limits last year. Representative Vagnozzi will almost certainly have the distinction of being the last World War II veteran ever elected to the Michigan Legislature.

NEWS FROM THE GERALD R. FORD FOUNDATION

In the last two issues of the *MPHS News*, we examined how the Michigan Legislature debated the following question: Who should represent Michigan in the Capitol Rotunda in Washington, DC? For nearly a century, Michigan had been represented by Lewis Cass and Zachariah Chandler. Last year, the Michigan Legislature decided to replace the Chandler statue with a statue of Gerald R. Ford, Michigan’s only President.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation will not only be assuming all expenses related to the creation and placement of the Ford statue, but also will be paying all expenses for the transportation of the Chandler statue to the Detroit Historical Center. Chandler once served as Mayor of Detroit.

Of course, the Gerald R. Ford Foundation’s work goes far beyond the Capitol Rotunda debate. The Foundation, a non-profit corporation founded in 1981, supports the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids and the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor. The Foundation arranges to bring

in nationally-renown speakers and exhibits to the Library and the Museum, awards prizes and grants to journalists and scholars, and promotes public awareness of the U.S. Presidency in general and President Ford in particular.

The Gerald R. Ford Foundation recently added to its team when it announced Joseph Calvaruso as its Executive Director. Joe has over 29 years experience in the banking industry. His most recent position with Mercantile Bank was Senior Vice President, Director of Risk Management. Joe is a graduate of Albion College and has an MBA in Finance from Western Michigan University. He also has extensive experience as Trip Lead for Vice President Cheney’s advance team, both within the United States and overseas. He is Chairman of the Michigan Certified Development Corporation, and is on the Visiting Committee at the Ford Institute of Albion College.

Martin J. “Marty” Allen, Jr., a close friend of President and Mrs. Ford, continues to serve as

Chairman emeritus of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation. Marty is proof-positive that President Ford, a former lineman for the University of Michigan Wolverines, could work well with people of different backgrounds and philosophies; after all, Marty is a very proud graduate of Notre Dame.

We at the Michigan Political History Society wish to thank Marty for his continued outstanding service with the Foundation, and congratulate Joe on his recent appointment. Let us suggest to our readers: The next time you find yourself in the Grand Rapids area, visit (and marvel at) the City’s wonderful downtown; enjoy a meal at one of the area’s several outstanding restaurants; and, by all means, find time to visit the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum to see what Marty, Joe, and the rest of the Gerald R. Ford Foundation have done to help make the Gerald R. Ford Museum both a cultural gem of the American Midwest and a worthy testament to one of Michigan’s greatest and most accomplished sons.

For questions about MPHS, please contact Linda Cleary, Administrative Director at (517) 333-7996 or via email at linda.cleary@sbcglobal.net. Please also visit our website at: www.miphs.com for more information.