

A TRIBUTE TO THE SAGINAW NEWS

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to an editorial in the Saginaw News. To open the New Year, the editors published a set of principles. These principles remind us that our local communities are the wellspring of America's greatness, and an endless source of inspiration for our national leaders.

Put forth in these principles are many of the driving forces behind the work we do in Congress and the vision we share for our country: lower taxes, a smaller government, and economic opportunity for all Americans. I believe these principles serve as goalposts for the 105th Congress as well. I urge my colleagues to read the News' basic principles as we begin work in the new Congress.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to submit the editorial from the January 1, 1997 edition of the Saginaw News:

ISSUES AND OPINIONS: OUR BASIC PRINCIPLES

The principles a newspaper holds may often be obscured by the rush of day-to-day events. But we think it's important for readers to know that our views of those issues are guided by a set of fundamental beliefs.

That's why The Saginaw News each year publishes a statement of the principles on which it intends to base editorial-page comments over the days and months to come.

Each matter on which we express our opinion is reviewed and judged on its own merits. As circumstances change, they may prompt a fresh look at our own ideas.

But the constant process of review and judgment that leads to editorial opinion rests on a firm foundation. Some issues are transitory; others, more fundamental to our lives and our society, bear repeated attention.

While the thoughts here are general expressions of ideas and ideals, they help determine our approach to the people, events and proposals that shape our life.

Our basic goal is to speak in which we perceive to be the best interests of our readers.

Editorials, while based on reporting and analysis of news events and developments, express a viewpoint. So we expect disagreement. If we stimulate independent thought and discussion, we believe we have achieved one of our major purposes whether or not our words have been persuasive.

But we believe we have an obligation to seek to persuade. A newspaper has a responsibility to its community to be, as best it can, not only its voice to the world, but its interpreter of that world; to be its advocate and defender, and sometimes its critic and counselor, always toward the benefit of its citizens.

We acknowledge that is a very large responsibility indeed. We welcome any and all suggestions from our readers on how we can better fulfill it. We don't seek to act in place of public opinion, but to give the public an opportunity to expand on its own beliefs.

That cannot happen, though, without mutual understanding.

We hope this statement of the principles of The Saginaw News will further that understanding.

LOCAL ISSUES

On Saginaw-area issues. The News supports:

Efficiently providing the best public service at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers.

High-quality representation for all segments of each community.

Progressive, professional management at county, city and township levels.

Planning for development of human and physical resources in awareness of the constant challenge for fresh approaches.

A strong central urban area serving the entire community.

Maximum cooperation among all governments, with consolidation of municipal services to the greatest possible extent.

Recognition that racial and ethnic diversity is a strength on which to build toward the common goals that unite us.

Strong human-relations efforts to assure dignity and equal opportunity for all.

Care for our streets and homes, because a community can be no better than its neighborhoods.

School systems that provide a comprehensive education.

Strong academic and behavioral standards for students; quality instruction and administration; and equitable public financial support adequate to achieve those goals.

The free-enterprise profit system as that which most fully ensures economic liberty and a high standard of economic life to business, industry and employees.

Expansion of job opportunities, and diversification of the economic base, in recognition of the serious challenges of constantly changing times.

Workplace policies respecting the rights of employees, management—and the public.

STATE ISSUES

On state issues, The News supports:

A fair system of taxation to maintain efficient, quality state services at the lowest possible cost.

Achievement of an economic climate conducive to retaining existing industry and diversifying Michigan's economic base.

Preservation of Michigan's natural beauty and resources while balancing the legitimate needs of the state's agriculture, other economic institutions and population.

Recognition that the auto industry remains the region's and state's economic mainstay.

Swift and fair administration of justice. Respect for the law by citizens—and of citizens by the law and those sworn to enforce it.

Political leadership, at the state level and in our representation at the national level, that responds to the needs of the state and its people.

NATIONAL ISSUES

On national issues, The News supports:

A limited government under which political power rests in the wisdom of the governed, and the rights of the people to control their own destinies, through their representatives.

Strong defense of the Bill of Rights as the unique section of a unique Constitution on which rests preservation of our most fundamental individual liberties.

A decent respect for the financial resources of our citizens, expressed through restraint in taxation and spending.

Policies encouraging the opportunity to seek and find employment for all who desire it.

A strong, efficient defense, essential amid a changing world's twists and turns.

Safeguarding the national environment consistent with economic stability and growth.

Maintaining the strength of political parties as American institutions best able to build citizen interest and involvement in

government, and to develop responsible leadership.

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

On international issues, The News supports:

A foreign policy that stresses the desire of the United States to live in harmony with all nations; that recognizes the right of all peoples to peaceful self-determination; that encourages the continued expansion of freedom in all nations; that advocates non-violent resolution of disputes; that recognizes that remaining threats to our freedom, and others', require strong alliances to deter aggression even as we welcome the reduction of the danger of war.

Free and fair trade as the interdependent economies of the world evolve in new directions.

The right of all people to achieve and maintain a decent standard of living, to develop and prosper.

PERSONAL LIFE

Finally, The Saginaw News believes there is more to the quality of life than our personal relationships, jobs and leisure activities. The News believes in encouraging people to look beyond themselves. We believe that life becomes more satisfying and meaningful when we care about all our neighbors and the community of which we all are a part.

IN HONOR OF THE CONCORD HIGH SCHOOL CRIMSON TIDE MARCHING BAND

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 21, 1997

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Crimson Tide Marching Band of Concord High School in Concord, NH. The talents of this 120-piece band, under the direction of Bill Metevier, were recognized by the Presidential Inaugural Committee, leading to an invitation to perform in the Inaugural Parade in our Nation's capital on January 20, 1997.

Concord High School has one of the best marching bands in all of New England. These young musicians earned the wonderful opportunity to perform in front of the President and the First Lady, as well as the entire Nation watching on television.

The city of Concord embraced the Crimson Tide Marching Band, as individuals and local companies raised over \$20,000 to help pay for the band's trip to Washington, DC. The Concord Schools Friends of Music deserve much credit for leading the fundraising effort to allow these students to enjoy an opportunity that will be remembered for a lifetime.

I know that the parents and families, the teachers, students and staff of the Concord School District, and the entire state of New Hampshire are exceedingly proud of the accomplishments of the Crimson Tide Marching Band.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the musicians of the Concord High School Crimson Tide Marching Band for participating in a memorable and historic occasion, the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Parade.