

OUR VIEW

A local icon passes

There's an old 1950s pop song, "To Know Him is to Love Him," which took its title from an epitaph used on many gravestones at the time.

In the days after the passing of longtime public servant Ray "Moose" Dutey, it became apparent that the phrase could have been used to describe his life and his interactions with all he encountered over his five decades in local offices.

Many recalled his kindness, good humor and encouragement he offered to them.

Dutey was well-liked by members of both parties and won re-election repeatedly from the county's voters.

Perhaps his greatest political legacy will be as a mentor, with many current officeholders recalling how he provided them with advice and guidance as they began their careers.

And, whether it was as an announcer at Coal Grove football games, a leader in his church or his involvement in civic events, his love of the county extended outside government.

His was a life well lived and we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Well! Here comes ol’ Charlie Brown! Good ol’ Charlie Brown ... Yes, sir! Good ol’ Charlie Brown.....how I hate him!”



SCHULZ

—spoken by Shermey, in the first lines of Peanuts. The classic comic strip by Charles Schulz began its 50-year run on this date in 1950

OTHER VIEWS



When the Supreme Court votes by party, then what?

We Americans like to believe the Supreme Court is the final and neutral arbiter of the laws passed by the representatives of the people.

Ideally, the court will simply make certain that laws passed align with our constitution.

Unfortunately, the court does not always function with such clarity. In recent years, the court created out of whole cloth a new, old-ish-sounding concept called "originalism," born in circa 1980.

Originalism's devotee on the court was Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, who was known as a far-right conservative justice, voting consistently much like elected Republicans advocated.

But this was often viewed as a political approach of the constitution. So, with Scalia's embracement of originalism, it was argued his decisions held no contemporary political context because originalism sought only to reveal the constitution's original meaning.

But that argument required first the assumption that somehow Scalia had greater access to the memories and hidden intents of writers long dead than any other interpreter on the court.

The second problematic issue was that the originalists were slave owners, whose original intent should not be held up today for any reason. Thirdly, the original writers held no view on many contemporary issues and the laws written



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to address those issues.

Imagining that the originals had something valuable to say about social media or cyber privacy would be like searching the Mona Lisa to find Picasso's painting style.

Then the originalists had to argue that the meaning of words never changes, making the original meaning of, for example "cruel and unusual" the same then as now, a hard-to-imagine thought about words, language and meanings.

What originalism actually did was to create a thin screen of objectivity to conceal rank political decisions from the court. And that intent lived on in the court, reflected in 2000 when ruling a solely political 5-4 to overturn the Florida Supreme Court ruling and insist that votes stop being counted to name George W. Bush the president over Al Gore, a ruling left naked in terms of precedent or rationale.

For years, the court suffered in public support after Bush v. Gore. While the court did recover a good deal of its trust by the people, this year all of that trust was lost again

and, perhaps forever, when five Republican Justices, ignoring precedent and the constitution, let stand a visibly unconstitutional law in Texas.

To fully understand the significance of the loss of public trust from that singular decision, Quinnipiac polling reported confidence in the Court fell from a high of 52 percent in 2020 to 37 percent today.

And we can expect more of the same, more loss of confidence in a Supreme Court now comprised of nine justices, including five Republicans with nothing to conceal their partisan voting.

It would not be surprising to have Roe v. Wade overturned, even though it is established law and has broad and deep public support. It would not be surprising to find the 2nd Amendment, already far from its constitutional clarity to support state militias, expanded to permit everyone to carry concealed weapons in public. This, in spite of our American society already known as the most gun violent nation on the planet.

Yes, our Republican friends have now created a Supreme Court that will lose the trust of the people with its political cast of hand-picked rightwing justices.

Brace for a flurry of decisions that will stun you and anger you. The packed court, the stacked McConnell Court, is ready to abuse the history of the Supreme Court.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ironton Shake Shoppe should change logos

As a resident of Gallipolis, I want to defend the Gallipolis Shake Shoppe.

Their logo has been THEIRS for decades! You just don't steal someone else's, especially when you have the same name.

The Snedaker family has tried since 2019 to get this resolved, what is the problem with Ironton having its own logo?

Maybe a tiger eating a sandwich and shake!

The greed seems to be on the Ironton shop, taking advantage of a well-established eatery.

Ours is a third generation Shake Shoppe, doing fine!

Not needing the money, just want the law enforced.

Kathie Lemley
Gallipolis

READERS POLL

We asked readers of The Ironton Tribune on our website

"Who do you think has the strongest case in the Shake Shoppe lawsuit?"

Here are the results:
Ironton - 75 percent
Gallipolis - 9 percent
Don't know - 16 percent

Here is this week's question:

"With COVID-19 cases still on the rise, do you plan on taking your children trick-or-treating this year?"

Go to www.irontribune.com to take part in the survey. Results will appear in this space next week.

CONTACT US

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