

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Telford Telescope: My freedom fighter Scottish forebearers

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



Pictured here in 1973 are my uncle Frank Telford (a war correspondent in World War II, later a Hollywood producer-director), my aunt Letty Telford (a co-founder of the Detroit Federation of Teachers), my Detroit Kindergarten-teacher mother Helen Telford holding my infant daughter Katherine, my old

ager Archie Silman--who owned a gym on Woodward Avenue and was an affiliate of the old Jewish Purple Gang--would fetch him from the bar and take him to Olympia Stadium, where he would knock out an opponent in a round or two and go right back to the bar. (His entire family were working alcoholics, and a few years later his drinking got him fired from his job as a bodyguard for UAW president Walter Reuther.)

Back in Scotland, my father's cousin Eric Liddell--now a Presbyterian minister--had become the British Empire's 100-yard dash champion, and at the 1924 Paris Olympics, he declined on religious basis to run on Sunday in the 100-meter heats, so the British Olympic Committee entered



fighter father John (Scotty) Telford, and me. My father and his cousin on his mother's side Eric Liddell were both born in Scotland in 1902.

My grandfather Francis Telford--the one-time cruiserweight champion of Ayrshire County--came to America to work in a Maryland coal mine and brought his family with him. He joined a descendant sect of the Molly McGuires--a then-illegal miners' union--the mine owners burned down his Maryland house at midnight. He fled with his family to Iowa to work in another coal mine there, bringing my then-thirteen-year-old father down into the mine to work with him. In 1917, my grandfather rode the hobo rails from Iowa to Detroit, got a job with a car company, bought a house on 12th Street (now Rosa Parks Boulevard), and sent for his family. When my father became a professional boxer in 1918 Detroit at the tender age of sixteen, it became his custom to drink in the Transport Bar on McGraw between Stanton and 16th Street, whence his man-

him in the 400 meters, wherein he broke the Olympic and world record with a 47.6-second clocking (as depicted in the film 'Chariots of Fire'--three decades later, I sliced a couple of seconds off that family record). While ministering as a missionary in World War II Burma in 1944, Rev. Eric Liddell was executed by the Japanese. During the Detroit race riot the previous year, my father saved a little 95-year-old black man from getting stomped to death by three white men in a side-alley on Stanton kept him overnight in our house on 16th Street, and drove him home the following morning.

We need more freedom-fighters like my Scotland-born father and his Scottish-immigrant family, who--were they alive today--would do everything in their power to keep the treasonous Trump out of the White House.

An NCAA and NAAU All-American sprinter in the mid-1950s, John Telford was undefeated at 200 and 400 meters racing in Europe on the U.S. track team.

Don't get distracted: Five Trump policies black Americans need to watch now

By Stacy M. Brown
Senior National Correspondent

The public feud between Donald Trump and Elon Musk over the GOP's "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" has Republicans scrambling--but civil rights and other advocates warn that the drama may serve as a smokescreen, drawing attention away from harmful policies disproportionately targeting Black Americans. After Musk blasted the bill as a "disgusting abomination" that adds to the national debt, Trump fired back, accusing Musk of selfishness over lost electric vehicle subsidies and threatening to terminate his government contracts. Meanwhile, House Speaker Mike Johnson criticized Musk's posts as "surprising and disappointing," and the White House dismissed Musk's allegations linking Trump to Jeffrey Epstein.

While the headlines focus on personal attacks, the Congressional Budget Office reports that the GOP bill would add \$2.4 trillion to the national debt and leave nearly 11 million people without health insurance. At the same time, the Trump administration has renewed travel bans

targeting majority-Black nations, slashed federal agency budgets, gutted DEI efforts, and advanced fossil fuel projects in Black communities. The Congressional Black Caucus and others warn that these policies amount to a deliberate attack on marginalized groups under the guise of fiscal reform--while the public remains fixated on billionaire infighting.

Top 5 Reasons Black Americans Should Pay Close Attention:

- Cuts to Medicaid and Medicare could leave millions--including a disproportionate number of Black Americans--without health coverage.
- Mass layoffs in federal agencies threaten jobs heavily held by Black workers.
- New travel bans target Black and brown nations, breaking families and stoking racism.
- Environmental deregulation fast-tracks toxic projects through Black communities.
- Voter suppression efforts and authoritarian executive actions threaten Black political power and civil rights hard-won over decades.

AG Nessel asks Michigan Court of Claims to find abortion restrictions discriminatory

LANSING - Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel filed a motion (PDF) with the Michigan Court of Claims in Northland v Nessel, a case challenging several abortion restrictions under Michigan's fundamental constitutional right to reproductive freedom. The motion urges the Court to find the abortion restrictions unconstitutionally discriminatory.

On May 13, the Court struck down several state abortion regulations, including the 24-hour waiting period, the informed consent requirements, and the ban on advanced practice clinicians providing abortion care, but upheld the mandatory coercion screening provisions. The Attorney General's motion requests that the Court take a second look at the coercion screening provisions, holding that they unconstitutionally discriminate against patients seeking abortion care.

As the Attorney General noted in her post-trial brief (PDF), the Michigan Constitution prohibits the state from discriminating against individuals who exercise their fundamental right to reproductive freedom -- a right that includes abortion care. Each

of the challenged abortion restrictions are discriminatory, Attorney General Nessel contends, because they treat those seeking an abortion differently than those seeking to access any other form of reproductive healthcare service without good reason for doing so.

"Women wishing to continue their pregnancy, those seeking management for a miscarriage, and men pursuing a vasectomy all may do so without this level of state interference," Nessel said. "Michigan residents and their healthcare providers deserve the same freedom when it comes to the deeply personal decision to have an abortion. The people of Michigan have made clear that unequal treatment has no place in our state, and I will continue working to ensure that our laws reflect the constitutional standards that Michigan voters have demanded."

Attorney General Nessel's motion asks the Court to amend or reconsider its May 13 opinion and hold that the challenged coercion screening provisions are unconstitutional.

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