

DETROIT NATIVE SUN

Enlightening the Community

Telford Telescope: Of Detroit & 'Blue Salt'

By Dr. John Telford
SUN COLUMNIST



We right-fully proud citizens of Motown have our Chevrol-ets and our classy Cadil-lacs, Lincolns, Corvettes and Mustangs. We have our old Olympic sprint champions Eddie Tolan of Cass

Technical High School and the great "Gray Ghost" Henry Carr of Northwestern. We have our boxing immortals Joe Louis and

Sugar Ray Robinson, plus Diana Ross and the amazing Aretha. However, unlike the last line in my poem 'Blue Salt,' Detroit's excellence in those four endeavors is less new than it is historic. I celebrate that luminous history in my books and my poetry-readings as the Detroit Public Schools' con-tracted Poet-in-Residence so young Detroiters will know about our city--and particularly about our globally dominant track and boxing backgrounds.

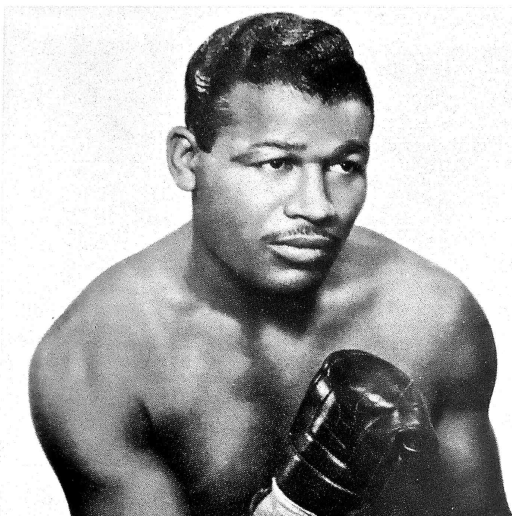
When Eddie Tolan won the 1932 Olympic 100 and 200-meter dashes, he was proclaimed 'World's Fastest Human' four years before Jesse Owens was, and Jesse tied Tolan's Olympic 100-meter mark in Berlin--he didn't break it. Owens had also tied the world 100-yard record while still in high school, and Henry Carr was history's only other prep sprinter to accomplish that feat when he tied the world 220-yard mark of 20 seconds flat in 1961 on the old Redford High School track. Carr, who won the 1964 Olympic 200 in world-record time and had a carry well under a world-record 45 seconds on the winning 1,600-meter relay on an archaic dirt-and-cinder track in Tokyo, was the greatest 200/400-meter talent of all time. During the 20th century, eight DPS alumni--in addition to Tolan and Carr--won sprint races for the U.S.abroad. Of that eight, five--including this writer--competed for Wayne University. Other DPS alums broke world records, and four competed on national teams in other events (jumps, hurdles, throws, etc.).

Six men who came up in Detroit during the 20th century were also world-beaters

BLUE SALT'

My name is Detroit.
I'm a blue-collar town.
Blue salt melts my mid-March snow.
Speedy cars and sprinters spring from me.
I father fierce fighters and funky music.
In a Motown Moment, I can spit the blues
Right back in a bureaucrat's eye.
Have you never seen blue salt?
No complex chemistry here--
Only the old color
Of a new sky.

in the boxing ring. In addition to Louis, who defended his heavyweight title a record 25 times, and Robinson, the welter-weight and middleweight champion whom experts call the greatest fighter pound-



for-pound to ever step into a ring, Detroit was home to world champions Thomas Hearn, Hilmer Kenty, and Milton and Steve McCro-ry--all fighting under the tute-lage of Emmanuel Steward at the Kronk Recreation Center. Other Detroit-bred pro's worthy of men-tion were Henry Hank, Moses Ward, Joe Garza, Ted Wright, Rickey Womack,

Hedgeman Lewis, Oba Carr, Al 'Blue' Lewis, Sonny Banks (who put Muhammad Ali briefly on the canvas), Lester Felton, Dwight Davison, Chuck Speiser, Bob "Ducky" Dietz, and a Scotland-born fighter who turned pro in 1918 at the age of sixteen named John 'Scotty' Telford, my father. Here's hoping that a trainer like Steward will arise and engender another Motown boxing dynasty. Darnell Hall, who forty years later succeeded me as the fastest quarter-miler to come out of Michigan, administers the track program now for DPS and should revive Detroit's state and national sprint dominance. At 84, I'm going to try to survive long enough to witness that revival.

Former DPS superintendent John Telford, a Golden Gloves fighter and NCAA All-American sprinter in the 1950s, was unbeaten at 200/400 meters racing for the U.S. in Europe. Get his Detroit-oriented books at Book Sney at 10345 Joseph Campau in Hamtramck or on amazon.com (type in Dr. John Telford). Hear him Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. and Mondays at 6:30 p.m. on WCHB AM1340, also streaming on DETipTV.com. Contact him at DrJohnTelfordEdD@aol.com or (313) 460-8272 to obtain signed copies of his books. His website is www.AlifeontheRUN.com.

Nessel responds to call for investigation into sexual abuse allegations against U-M doctor

LANSING - In response to a call for her to take action, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel said today that any investigation into the alleged sexual assaults committed by the late Dr. Robert Anderson would require full cooperation by the accused's former employer, the University of Michigan, and an appropriation by the Michigan Legislature to cover costs of the investigation.

Nessel hosted a roundtable with media this afternoon at her office in Lansing after a news conference was held earlier today in Ann Arbor by attorneys, victims' advocates and survivors of reported sexual assault by Anderson, a former U of M doctor, as well as Larry Nassar, a former doctor at Michigan State University.

"I commend those who have come forward to speak out about Dr. Anderson's abuses," Nessel said at the roundtable. "Your courage inspires us all and shines a spotlight on the work we have left to do to ensure that sexual assault and abuse is taken as seriously in the halls of academia as it is in the halls of justice." Anderson passed away in 2008 and statute of limitations on his crimes have all likely run out.

Nessel said there cannot be a complete and thorough investigation unless and until the University of Michigan commits to complete transparency and full cooperation. For that to happen, the university would need to make a binding commit-

ment to waive all privileges, including the attorney-client privilege, and fully cooperate in whatever law enforcement efforts there may be.

If the university were to waive privilege and fully cooperate, Nessel said the Attorney General's office would still need an appropriation from the Legislature to fund investigatory efforts.

"When MSU called on this office to investigate the Nassar scandal, the Legislature responded by appropriating \$1 million to fund our Department's investigatory efforts," Nessel said. "In just over a year, our Department - in partnership with the Michigan State Police - interviewed nearly 400 witnesses and filed charges against three MSU officials - all while coming-in under budget."

However, Nessel said MSU's failure to waive the attorney-client privilege prevented her office from completing its investigation and has denied the survivors any sense of closure, while also wasting hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars. Those actions cannot be repeated.

"The young men and women at our colleges and universities are entitled to a safe learning environment," Nessel said. "We achieve that when we start holding those in charge of their safety accountable. Like MSU, history will judge U of M by its actions in the wake of this scandal. I hope it makes different - and better - choices."

Supreme Court to review Affordable Care Act decision that jeopardizes health care for millions



the lower court's ruling causes uncertainty that may harm the health of millions of Americans, as well as doctors, clinics, patients and the health care market. The Supreme Court granted the coalition's request but declined to

LANSING - The U.S. Supreme Court today agreed to review a lower court's decision that found the individual mandate of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) unconstitutional, at the urging of Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and 19 other attorneys general and the governor of Kentucky, who collectively filed the petition for review.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' Dec. 18, 2019 decision in Texas v. U.S. held the ACA's individual mandate - requiring people to obtain health insurance coverage - unconstitutional and called into question whether the remaining provisions of the ACA could still stand, including those that protect and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.

"Though this decision fell short of an expedited review, I am pleased the Supreme Court will nonetheless review this case," Nessel said. "The Affordable Care Act provides essential protections for millions of Michiganders with pre-existing conditions. Ensuring those safeguards are maintained is critical to caring for our state's residents as well as the health of our country."

Nessel and the coalition petitioned the Supreme Court to review the case because

expedite its review and consider the case by the end of the court's current term in June as was also asked to do.

The lawsuit was filed by a Texas-led coalition and supported by the Trump administration, which argued that Congress rendered the ACA's individual mandate unconstitutional when it reduced the penalty to \$0. They further argued that the rest of the ACA should be held invalid because of that change.

The Fifth Court determined the individual mandate was unconstitutional but declined to rule on the ACA's remaining provisions, instead opting to send the case back to the Northern District of Texas to determine which provisions of the 900-page law were still valid. Those provisions include coverage for the 133 million Americans with pre-existing conditions, subsidies that help working families afford health care, investments in public health programs to prevent and combat public health threats like the opioid epidemic, and support lab capacity and immunization infrastructure for threats like novel coronavirus.

Unless the court orders otherwise, the case will be reviewed in October at the earliest.

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