



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

House Committee Approves Strengthening Rape Shield Law

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary committee passed SB 9, relative to the admissibility of proffered evidence in sexual assault cases, 11-4. The bill establishes a procedure to determine the admissibility of proffered evidence in sexual assault cases. This bill protects victims of sexual assault from having their sexual history brought in as evidence in a trial or appeals process.

Although this is in line with practices in New Hampshire, this bill simply clarifies the law. In a recent case, the court decided the Rape Shield Law didn't apply during the appeals process. They later reversed their decision and called on the legislature to clarify the statute.

This legislation is an important protection for victims of sexual assault and their families, and this bill will allow for a victim's sexual history to remain sealed from public release. SB9 will head to the full House for a vote on Thursday.



Statue of General Stark located on the south side of the front lawn of the State House.

NH Celebrates John Stark Day

RSA 4:13-I states that the governor shall annually proclaim the fourth Monday in April as General John Stark Day in commemoration of General Stark's gallant and illustrious service to New Hampshire and his country. But who was this "gallant and illustrious" Granite Stater?

Major General John Stark was born in Nutfield, NH (current day Londonderry) in 1728 and when he was 8 years old moved with his family to Derryfield, NH (current day Manchester) where he'd live for the rest of his life.

In 1752 while hunting along the Pemigewasset River Stark was taken captive by the Abenaki Indians and brought back to Canada. During his time in captivity Stark showed true bravery and was made a member of the tribe shortly before being release through ransom.

Starks time with the Abenaki Tribe prepared him well for the coming French and Indian War as Stark was made an officer in the famed Robert Rogers' Rangers. Stark served with distinction during the French and Indian War. Following the wars end, Stark returned to Manchester and married Elizabeth "Molly" Page, the two of them would have 11 children.

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CAUCUS NOTICE:

There will be a Republican caucus on **Wednesday, May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.
There will be Republican caucus on **Thursday, May 4th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

SESSION NOTICE:

The next House session will be on **Thursday, 4th at 10:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

Benson's Portrait Unveiled

On Thursday the unveiling of Governor Craig Benson's official portrait was held during a ceremony in Representatives Hall. Craig Benson was the 79th Governor of New Hampshire serving one term from 2003 to 2005. In speaking of his portrait Benson said "I wanted to do a portrait that was symbolic of support". Benson's portrait features him speaking from the Speaker's Podium with the American Flag serving as the backdrop. He said the podium represents the "people who are



willing to come to this chamber for no pay and work to make this state a better place." He continued saying "I'm pleased to not only put a portrait up on the wall, [but include] the things that make New Hampshire awful special and this country free and great".

Guests at the unveiling included former Governors Sununu and Merrill, former Sen. Kelly Ayotte, former Speaker Bill O'Brien, and current State House leadership; Governor Sununu, Speaker Jasper, and President Morse.

SB38: The New Vehicle for Municipal Infrastructure Aid

As amended, this bill sends \$30,000,000 back to the cities and towns under the regular apportionment A distribution plan already used for this purpose; and adds \$6.8 million to the state bridge aid program for municipal bridges under RSA 234. The amended portion of the bill incorporates a change recommended by the Department of Revenue Administration allowing municipalities to make use of these new funds during this construction season. Funding for this portion of the bill comes from 2017 surplus funds.

In the governor's version of HB 2 there were two recommendations from the Department of Transportation; one dealing with the highway betterment program, and the other dealing with red listed bridges. The committee made some changes in the betterment funding formula, allowing up to 30 percent of statewide betterment funds to be used in districts that have a higher percentage of substandard roads. The red listed bridge area added state owned railroad bridges that are over highways, and prescribed that all red listed bridges be inspected bi-annually and every municipal red list bridge annually. Additionally, we added a reporting date of red listed bridges of April 1st of each year. Passage of this bill as amended will strengthen our commitment to improve state and local infrastructure.

SB131: Working to STOP Deadly Opioid Trafficking

This bill establishes a cross border drug interdiction program. It authorizes the hiring of five state troopers to be trained for the program and includes additional funding for the forensic lab and funding for overtime for the state forensic lab, the state police mobile enforcement unit and narcotics and investigations unit. The money will come from fiscal year 2017 funds.

The House will vote on SB131 on Thursday.

THE WEIR TIMES
LAKES REGION HOME SHOW EDITION
"The Life Of Celia Thaxter"
On Thursday, May 11, at 10:00 at the Lakes Region Historical Society Museum on Main Street, actress Stephanie Voss Thaxter will discuss "The Remarkable Life of Celia Thaxter".
Thaxter, being four years old and sailing to sea at a tugboat in the wake of her father, the artist's story of Celia Thaxter, the first and the child of the Lake of Umbagog, New Hampshire.
The article includes a photograph of a hall filled with various American flags, including the Stars and Stripes, and other historical flags. The caption reads: "Civil War Regimental Battle Flags along the south wall in the State House Lobby. Currently covered are 87 battle flags in various stages of disrepair."
The article also mentions the "NEW HAMPSHIRE'S HISTORIC HALL OF FLAGS" and the "LAKES REGION HOME SHOW EDITION".

State Rep. Spotlight

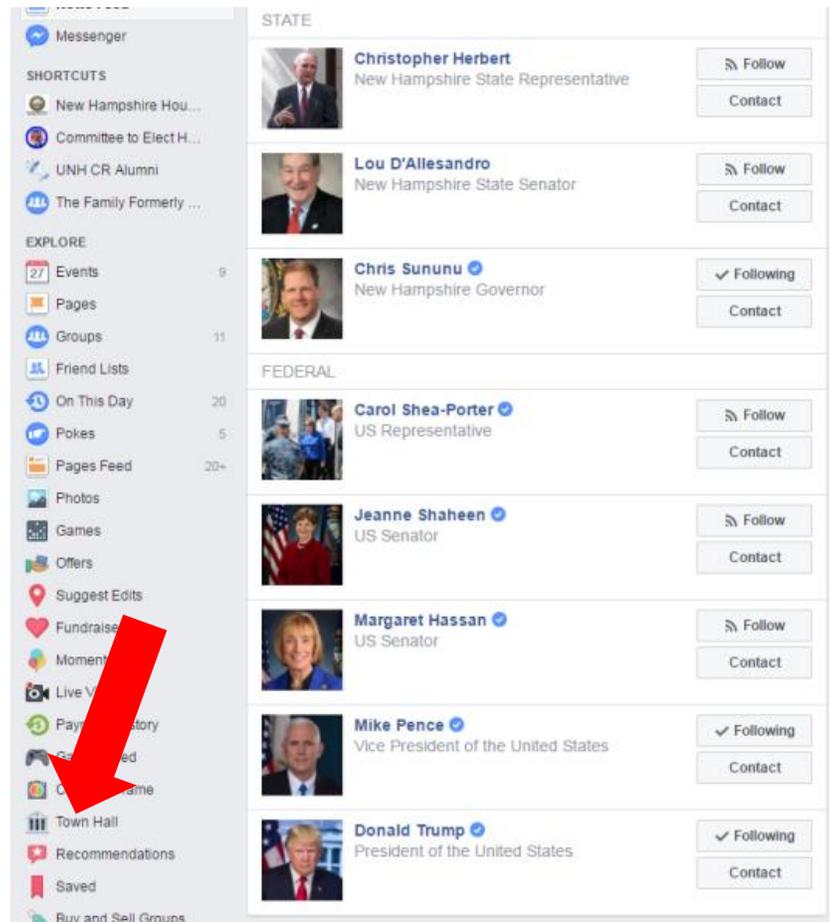
[Click here](#) to read Rep. Mike Moffett's article on New Hampshire's Historic Hall of Flags as featured in this week's Weir's Times. The Hall of Flags is located at the front entrance to the State House and is the first area visitors see when they enter. The Hall features some beautiful and historic flags from the Civil War. Thanks Rep. Moffett for sharing your article with us!

Facebook Launches “Town Hall”

In March Facebook launched a new feature called “Town Hall” that hopes to serve as a way for individuals to increase their civic engagement and better connect with their government representatives.

The new Town Hall feature can be found under the ‘Explore’ tab on the left side of your Facebook home page. When an individual clicks on the page they’re then prompted to add their home address. After an individual adds their address their representatives Facebook pages, both state and federal, will appear on the screen. This allows everyday individuals a platform to see who represents them and then connect with them through social media.

Do you have a Facebook page? Make sure it’s up to date with all of your district information so that your constituents can connect with you through Facebook Town Hall. (Image: How the Facebook Town Hall feature displays on an individual’s profile.)



What is JLCAR?

The Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) was established by an act of the legislature in 1983 in order to provide legislative oversight for administrative rulemaking by executive department agencies. The structure, oversight powers, and roles of the JLCAR can be found in RSA 541-A:2 and RSA 541-A:13.

The legislators that comprise the membership of JLCAR include 5 members of the House and 5 members of the Senate as well as 5 alternate members from each chamber that fill in for absent members. Members of JLCAR are appointed every two years by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. No more than three members from each chamber may be from the same party.

The current legislators that serve on JLCAR are as follows:

Sen. John Reagan (Chair)	Rep. Carol McGuire (V. Chair)
Sen. Kevin Avard	Rep. John Graham
Sen. Dan Feltes	Rep. William A. Hatch
Sen. Harold French	Rep. Rick M. Ladd
Sen. Jay Kahn	Rep. Peter B. Schmidt

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Once news arrived about the Battles of Lexington and Concord Stark rushed down to aid the people of Boston. Soon after he gallantly led a company of men during the Battle of Bunker Hill and despite losing the battle the efforts he lead severely crippled the British forces and proved the colonists were a force to be reckoned with.

Stark would go on to serve with distinction in many engagements throughout the Revolutionary War including battles at Trenton, Princeton, and most famously Bennington.

Following the war General Stark moved back to Manchester where years later he would famously pen “Live free or Die; death is not the worst of evils” as a toast in a letter to a group of veterans of the Battle of Bennington. General Stark died in 1822 at his home in Manchester at the age of 93.

This past Monday was the last time that John Stark Day is celebrated on the 4th Monday in April. Gov. Sununu signed legislation earlier this month moving the day to the 2nd Monday in April so that the holiday will no longer fall on a vacation day and students can observe

Another View -- Dick Hinch: House GOP moving forward, despite Democratic opposition

By **DICK HINCH** [Published in Tuesday's Union Leader](#)

Constituents of New Hampshire, the reports of the demise of the Republican Caucus in the New Hampshire House of Representatives are greatly exaggerated.

If you were to believe the political gossip as of late, you might think that the failure of House of Representatives to pass a budget lies solely on the shoulders of House Republicans. But let's be clear — a strong majority of Republicans supported both budget bills.

Why wouldn't the majority of Republicans support a budget proposal that met a number of goals set forth in the Republican Party platform, and the House Republican agenda? These items included no new or increased taxes or fees, limiting total fund spending to no more than the rate of inflation, reform and reorganization of government agencies to be more efficient and responsive, and eliminated downshifting by proposing to send \$50 million in additional aid to cities and towns and an additional \$45 million in local infrastructure aid.

There is no budget that will be 100 percent favorable to any individual legislator. It isn't easy finding the perfect balance with legislation as complex as the state budget. In the end, we are confident that with a Republican Legislature and a Republican governor, the final product will achieve many of the points the House budget sought to achieve.

There are few things that we can be certain of in the New Hampshire Legislature. The final outcome of the legislative process may not be known until the time the votes are cast in Representatives Hall. One thing we can be sure of this term is House Democrats' ability to vote together to oppose most anything proposed by Republicans.

Ninety-six percent of House Democrats opposed the responsible House budget proposal in HB 1, and 90 percent opposed the related policy bill, HB 2.

This means all but a small percentage of Democrats in the House opposed the budget approved by a bipartisan majority of the House Finance committee that included property tax relief, increased resources for alcohol and drug abuse, increased funding for services for the developmentally disabled, and increased funding for the Community College System.

Moving forward, the Republican Caucus has many important initiatives we plan on uniting behind. These include reforming our election laws to prevent drive-by voting and preserve the integrity of our elections, finding ways to reduce the cost of electricity, retaining and attracting workers to the state, expanding school choice, and making our state more competitive, helping to grow, attract and retain more jobs.

We have already had several major Republican initiatives pass the House. These include Constitutional Carry, more oversight over the University System budget, several reforms to election laws, and passing the "Croydon Bill," which would permit school boards to assign a child to an approved nonsectarian private school if there is no public school for the child's grade in the child's resident district.

We have also rallied against Democrat-sponsored legislation that was contrary to our agenda, and that we believe would be wrong for New Hampshire. These include mandating a spike in the state minimum wage, repealing the education tax credit scholarship program, requiring background checks for lawful transfer of firearms, establishing an income tax, and extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains, among many others. These are measures that many Democrats campaign on, and failed to win them a majority in the House.

We are elected by the voters of our districts to act in their best interests. We are a party with a full spectrum of positions and opinions on fiscal and social policy. Despite our variances in views, and local concerns shaping individual votes, Republicans vote together the vast majority of the time based on our belief that common sense and pragmatism are what our constituents want and deserve.

There is a lot of work left to do, and the House Republican Majority in Concord is committed to building a coalition that will ensure that our Republican principles are represented in the legislation that we pass, and the people of New Hampshire have confidence in the Legislature and their state government.