

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session

beginning January 8, 2014

beginning page H-1301

bridge connecting the Twin Villages and holding an annual auction of donated items; and

WHEREAS, after its first 50 years of existence, the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club was best remembered for its annual Oyster Festival, which ran for more than 15 years and provided support for Little League baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Lincoln Academy's international student exchange, a raft for Red Cross swimming classes, the Lincoln Home for the Aged Founders' Day, painting the library building and sponsoring a poverty dinner; and

WHEREAS, the club is involved with the local Lions Club in a major fund-raiser each summer that consists of a golf tournament and auction, and the club continues to be an active part of the community with current membership at 57, with one member, Gary Speers, who served as district governor in 2011-12; and

WHEREAS, the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club has continued to raise money to support many community projects through the years, such as the Ecumenical Food Pantry, providing a well for a hospital in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, sponsoring Friends Forever teenagers from Northern Ireland in a grassroots peace effort and supporting the Guatemala Literacy Project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, extend our congratulations to the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club on its 90th Anniversary and we send our appreciation for its many years of serving the community and the world and honoring its motto of "Service Above Self"; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newcastle, Representative Devin.

Representative **DEVIN**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. In 1905, when Mr. Paul Harris, a lawyer who was from a rural area, working in Chicago, started a Rotary. He was looking for likeminded people to put back into his community. Today there are 34,282 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide. The Damariscotta-Newcastle club was started in 1924. The club has done a tremendous amount of community service which includes providing the seed money for the Nobleboro ball field, putting up the lights on the Damariscotta-Newcastle bridge and providing scholarships for local students going to college as well as the Tools of the Trade program which helps vocational students to buy the tools they need to work in their chosen profession. The club also does a lot of international giving, providing aid in Haiti after the earthquake, drilling wells for fresh water in South America and helping to build AIDS clinics in South Africa. And then there of course is the annual high school speech contest which gives kids a chance gain experience taking in front of adults. Both my sons participated in that program, with my older one winning the competition in 2007.

I would like to speak about one specific member who I had a long and close relationship with. Karl's Kids is a program started by the Damariscotta-Newcastle Rotary Club to help children purchase equipment, uniforms and other related items so that they can participate in athletic programs. Mr. Karl Burger, unfortunately, suddenly passed away in 2007. I met Karl around 2000 when I was coaching the Hannaford Little League baseball team in Damariscotta and he was an umpire. Over the next six or seven years Karl called nearly 100 Little League, Babe Ruth and school ball games in which I was the manager or assistant

coach. In the first game he ever umpired for me, there was a play at second base. Karl was the only umpire and ran out from behind the plate to make the call. Afterwards, he returned to the plate, but he noticed the boys were confused. He called time, walked out to second base and call the infielders to second base with him. I immediately ran out to second base to see what was going on, as did the opposing coach. When we coaches got there, Karl politely but firmly told us, he was explaining the play and his call to the boys and we coaches could return to our benches.

Over the next six or seven years he would regularly call timeout to explain to the players what had just transpired. Karl could have cared less if the coaches were happy with his calls or agreed with him. However, it was vital to him that the boys learn and understand the game of baseball properly. Karl was all about helping boys and young men navigate through life and baseball was the metaphor he used. Karl embodied the Rotarian principle of giving back to your community. He now lives on through Karl's Kids. So I proudly lead the recognition of the Damariscotta Newcastle Rotary Club as they complete their 90th year of service to Central Lincoln County.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.
Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative BEAR of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1339)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that Bill, "An Act To Authorize a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe in the State To Benefit from the Operation of an Existing Casino," H.P. 942, L.D. 1319, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the legislative files to the House.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Representative Bear.

Representative **BEAR**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Maine House of Representatives. Today, I rise as the legislative representative of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. But, I also rise in defense of what some have advised me is a lost cause, which is this motion to recall LD 1319, "An Act to Authorize a Federally Recognized Indian Tribe in the State to Benefit from the Operation of an Existing Casino." In the circumstances, I don't believe this necessarily is true. Days after my being elected the first Maliseet Tribal Representative to the Maine House of Representatives last year, and in furtherance of my tribe's strategic economic development vision, I proposed certain legislative bills, joint resolutions and sentiments to the Revisor's Office, including LD 1298, the Maliseet Casino in Aroostook County bill, and LD 1319, this bill, which is an act to authorize our tribe to benefit from an existing casino in Maine. Hearings and work sessions were scheduled and occurred for both of these bills. Written and oral testimony was also received by the VLA Committee for both of these bills, both for and against. As you might expect, the Town of Houlton, our Maliseet Tribal leadership and others supported our proposed Maliseet tribal casino bill in Aroostook County as presented by LD 1298. The tribe also initially supported this bill, LD 1319, which I bring before the body today.

But, as the hearing for our tribal casino bill unfolded before the Committee, it appeared to be in the tribe's interest to set it aside so that it would not distract the VLA Committee, or the House, or the Senate, or the Governor, should it ever reach him, from focusing on our casino bill. To that end, my leaders instructed me to inform the Committee that we would prefer LD