

Anne Berry Pinkerton. She grew up on Cleveland's west side in a family that was both politically conscious and socially active and where discussion of "issues" (which almost always included the children) was a regular part of family interaction. Her father ran a steel foundry supply business and was a salesman most of his life. Her mother was both a homemaker and helped her husband with the business.

Catherine talked about Sunday afternoon walks to the lake with her father where she learned many valuable things among which was that a woman could do anything if she understood how the world and business worked. Catherine attended St. Ignatius Elementary School from which she graduated in 1935. She then went on to St. Joseph Academy, graduating in 1939. During her high school years, she was introduced to the Catholic Worker movement and was soon volunteering at a soup kitchen. She became very close to Mother Margaret Mary Neary, who was instrumental in helping her make the decision to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph, which she did immediately following graduation.

Her parents were reluctant to see her enter, but they did support her in her decision. She received the habit in 1940 and was given the religious name, Sister Mary Pius. She attended St. John College from which she received her BSE in 1950 and her MA (Curriculum, English, and Education) in 1957. She did further study at both John Carroll University (certification in secondary school administration) and Laval University in Canada (music). As was the case with most sisters at that time, much of her formal education was done on Saturdays and during summers while she was teaching.

Sister Mary Pius's teaching assignments were: St. Rose (1943-50); St. Joseph, Canton (1950-57); St. Joseph Academy (1957-73). During her time at St. Joseph Academy, she was a teacher, the principal, and the director of the Junior Professed Sisters. This was around the time of the Second Vatican Council and Mother Margaret Mary Neary (Catherine's friend from high school) told her that she would be responsible for preparing young sisters for a Church and a community which didn't yet exist. What a challenge that was!

In all the different capacities which Catherine served at St. Joseph Academy, she was always involved with teaching music. She was especially skillful in getting large groups to sing well. There was nothing like hearing the entire school sing, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"!

It was during these years that Catherine was elected to the Diocesan Sisters' Senate and eventually became its president. She gradually became more and more involved in organizations of women religious. From 1973-75, she was the chairperson of NAWR (National Association of Women Religious). In 1975, she came back to Cleveland and worked for the Diocese in pastoral planning as the Director of Parish Councils (1975-80). Shortly after, she was elected to the leadership team of the Congregation of St. Joseph. (1976-84). When her term was completed, Catherine went to work for NETWORK, a national Catholic social justice lobby in Washington, D.C., which was affectionately known by some as the "nuns' lobby" (1984-2010). NETWORK was founded in the early 1970's by Catholic sisters to do research on and lobbying in Congress regarding those issues which affect the lives of the poor and minorities in our country and in the world. Catherine was honored to give the benediction at the 2008 National Democratic Convention in Denver, pausing before praying, and delivering a prayer of hope and gratitude to the crowd and the nation.

Catherine's health caused her to decide in 2010 to return to Cleveland and to St. Joseph

Hall where she remained a vibrant part of the local CSJ community. We are grateful for having shared in the life and the gifts of Sister Catherine and we celebrate her entrance into eternal life.

The following are a few additional reflections about Catherine:

"Catherine has a remarkable capacity to build relationships. In the mystical body of Christ, Catherine is sinew and nerves: connecting and loving each unique expression of the Divine." (Michael Culliton)

"Catherine, politically astute and passionately committed to the Gospel, never backed away from the way of justice and peace in the concrete and often messy reality of our time." (Bette Mosslander CSJ)

"Catherine has ventured into the halls of Congress to speak truth to power. She approaches Senators and Representatives not with money to line campaign coffers, but with faith, a deep knowledge of the issues, and a belief in the social Gospel of Jesus. As a consequence, she has touched the hearts—and changed the votes—of countless members of Congress." (Kathy Thornton, RSM)

KAZAKHSTAN'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, today I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing the visit of the President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the United States and Kazakhstan's assumption of the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council.

Over the past 26 years, Kazakhstan and the United States have built a strategic partnership based on mutual trust and friendship. Additionally, Kazakhstan has been and remains a vital partner in the fight against violent Islamic extremists—which is a threat to both of our countries—and Astana is an advocate of religious freedom and tolerance.

Since declaring its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has built a market-oriented economy continuing to be a valued partner of the United States. I congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on that achievement.

Despite its vast mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is committed to diversifying its economy, in line with the Strategy-2050, its national vision for future development. The strategy calls for widespread economic, social and political reforms with the goal of positioning Kazakhstan as one of the top 30 global economies by 2050.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has attracted \$260 billion in foreign direct investment, with another \$100 billion forecast for the next decade. The United States is a large contributor, with foreign direct investment worth billions of US dollars entering the Kazakh economy. This makes the US one of the largest investors in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan hosted an EXPO in 2017 with a theme of "Future Energy," which showcased successful US-Kazakhstan collaboration. Kazakhstan seeks to become a leader in promoting renewable energy.

Kazakhstan remains a reliable and trusted partner in the region, and I look forward to our work together to improve human rights, eco-

nomics freedom and security inside Kazakhstan and across the region.

RECOGNIZING STEVE EKBERG, RETIRING MEMBER OF THE GIG HARBOR CITY COUNCIL, WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Steve Ekberg and his nearly four decades of service as a member of the Gig Harbor City Council in the great state of Washington. I wish to thank him for his dedication to public service. I am proud to consider Steve a friend and I offer him my sincerest congratulations on his retirement.

Councilmember Ekberg has served under five mayors and alongside nearly 100 councilmembers. His passion for improving our community's access to recreational opportunities is a testament to his lifelong commitment to public service. When Councilmember Ekberg was first elected, the City of Gig Harbor had only one park. Today, the city features more than 20 parks and public piers. As a father to two little girls who play in those parks, I am appreciative of the tireless work of Councilmember Ekberg.

Councilmember Ekberg's contributions to Gig Harbor have been extensive. His years as a business and non-profit leader as well as a member of City Council have revealed him to be a champion for our region's youth. As a community leader, he worked tirelessly to build the YMCA into a place where our children can learn and thrive. He spent years coaching youth sports teams and devoted countless hours to the local Historical Society.

Councilmember Ekberg was a longtime business leader in the community. His insurance firm, the family owned Pilkey-Hopping & Ekberg, Incorporated, has been operating since 1896. When Steve retired from his firm, his son Reid Ekberg, was elected by the Board of Directors to become the fourth generation of family leaders for the company.

Steve has embodied the American dream and has contributed greatly to our region's economy and to the civility of our small community. Whether we've been working to build a new hospital in Gig Harbor, grapple with Narrows Bridge tolls, transfer some federal property to the city, or other initiatives, Steve has been a terrific partner and has always focused on doing what's right for the people of Gig Harbor.

Though Steve will be retiring from the Gig Harbor City Council, his service to his community will surely continue in other capacities. I also want to recognize Steve's wife Marion and their two sons, Adam and Reid, for the support they showed Steve and their own service to our community. It's clear that Steve has passed along his commitment to service.

On behalf of all Gig Harbor residents and the people of the Sixth District of Washington, thank you Steve for your tireless work and commitment to building a better community. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Councilman Steve Ekberg's nearly 40 years as a public servant on the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor.