

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### What has happened to the Republican Party?

In all my travels, one of the reasons I have been proud to be from Iowa is our reputation for clean, effective and efficient government. One of the reasons we enjoy this reputation has been a lack of excessive partisanship that puts the good of the people of the state first.

Our recent GOP-led state government has undermined all this, and now Republicans want to dump our merit judicial selection process.

Their argument is that the judiciary should be more accountable to the people. That argument reveals willful ignorance of our constitutional system. The courts are not designed to respond to the political winds. The Legislature and governor do that. The courts are designed to follow the constitution and other laws. And there is accountability: judges face retention elections.

Republicans used to be a party of good government. Maybe they will be again, but not today.

— *Jim Chrisinger, Ankeny* **Kenneth Quinn is deserving of Humanity award**

Kenneth Quinn is certainly deserving of the Steven Krulis Champion of Humanity Distinguished Service Award, being presented to him by the Aegis Trust [Iowan who served as U.S. ambassador to Cambodia wins international honor for confronting genocide].

He has done so many good things not only for our state but the world. He is a compassionate man and we certainly need all of them we can get.

Congratulations to Ambassador Quinn.

— *Marilyn Freerksen, Des Moines* **Judge selection process is not actually broken**

In regard to proposed legislation to change judge selection, there's an old saying: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The process has functioned well for 57 years. Do reasonable people believe that a Republican governor, Republican legislators and those wishing to change the rules would be in favor of the same if Mike Gronstal were still Senate majority leader,

or if the Iowa House were controlled by Democrats and if Tom Vilsack or Chet Culver sat in the the governor's chair?

If the answer to these inquiries is yes, then by all means, go for it.

— *Michael McMurry, Ankeny*