

## BUILDING COMMUNITY



Local 16 apprentices Jose Honesto and Paul Stirneman (right) were first-time SMART Army volunteers.

### Local 16's SMART Army helps clean up Vietnam Memorial

A week before Memorial Day, members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16's "SMART Army" volunteered to spruce up the grounds at the Oregon Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Portland's Washington Park. Fourteen journeymen and apprentices spent the morning of May 19 weeding, bark dusting, and doing general cleanup on the grounds. Dozens of other volunteers from various organiza-

tions also took part. The memorial consists of a 1,200-foot spiral path within a landscaped bowl containing lawns, flowers, and low hedges, surrounded by a mixture of tall trees. Along the path are monuments which list Oregon soldiers killed or missing in the conflict. Each monument is year-specific and contains short expositions on the history of the war.



Local 16 volunteers (from left) Paul Stirneman, Logan Doke, Dan Wilbert, Joseph Harris, Dante Gardner, Casey O'Bryan, Fred Sharrill, Bob Riehl, Michael Avery, Stephen Serniotti, Steve McClatchey, Chandler Lael, Darrell Doke, and Jose Honesto.

## WASHINGTON

### WSLC backs Carolyn Long in race against Herrera Beutler

Delegates representing unions from across Washington that are affiliated with the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO voted May 19 on early election endorsements at the state labor federation's 2018 COPE (Committee on Political Education) Convention at the Machinists 751 Hall in Seattle.



Beutler, a Republican. Delegates voted to actively oppose Beutler.

Other statewide election endorsements:

#### STATE SUPREME COURT

Position 2 **Susan Owens**  
Position 8 **Steve Gonzalez**  
Position 9 **Sheryl Gordon McCloud**

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LD 17 Position 1 **Tanisha Harris**  
LD 17 Position 2 **Damion Jiles**  
LD 18 Position 2 **Kathy Gillette**  
LD 49 Position 1 **Sharon Wiley**  
LD 49 Position 2 **Monica Stonier**

#### BALLOT MEASURES

##### Initiative 1608

**OPPOSE** Makes collective bargaining negotiations public meetings.

##### Initiatives 1644 and 981

**SUPPORT** Repeals I-200, which prohibited affirmative action policies with regards to race and gender by state and local government.

Additional endorsement action will be taken at the WSLC's 2018 Constitutional Convention July 17-19 in Wenatchee.

#### Supreme Court sides with corporations on arbitration

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled May 21 that companies can require workers to individually arbitrate their wage disputes — and prevent them from taking part in class action lawsuits. The case stems from agreements many workers are required to sign, as a condition of employment, that they'll arbitrate any disputes. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in a dissenting opinion, called them "arm-twisted, take-it-or-leave-it contracts." The National Labor Relations Board, siding with workers, had ruled that such company-imposed terms forbidding collective legal action over unpaid wages run afoul of the National Labor Relations Act, which protects employees' right to engage in "concerted activities" for the purpose of "mutual aid and protection." The Supreme Court's ruling overturns that. Trump appointee Neil Gorsuch wrote the opinion for the

5-4 majority, all of whom were Republican appointees.

#### A union ironworker falls eight stories — and lives

On April 30, union ironworker Jesse Ely fell eight stories from a high rise under construction for Amazon in downtown Seattle. Thanks to a safety net set up to catch tools, he survived the fall. But the net was rated for 300 pounds of debris, not a human; Ely was badly injured, dislocating an arm and a leg and severing arteries in both. A successful surgery repaired both arteries. He also faces knee surgery and has a broken jaw. Ely is a journeyman ironworker with more than 10 years' experience at Iron Workers Local 86, and has a wife and two children. He and his family are facing extraordinary medical bills. Local 86 is raising funds to help through its credit union. Donations can be made at [ironworkersfcu.org/memorial](http://ironworkersfcu.org/memorial).



Raymond Thomas



James Coon



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