

JUSTICE ELIZABETH A. WEAVER WELCOME
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WELCOME ! WELCOME ! WELCOME ! to my Home -----to what Good Morning America has called the most beautiful place in the country— ----to Leelanau/Benzie counties- Home of the National Sleeping Bear Lakeshore,

I want you to know that I am proud be a Zontian ---proud and grateful and humbled to be an honorary member of a International organization whose voluntary work is to improve and advance the educational, political, social, and economic status of women worldwide.

When asked to welcome you here I pondered what I might offer to help you in this important service. It is occurred to me to share with you one of my 10 Principles for Living (a la a David Letterman list) which have helped me through the joys and challenges of life

Here is the principle: #10—DON'T ATTEMPT THE IMPOSSIBLE. BUT YOU DECIDE WHAT IS POSSIBLE. By all means, listen to family and friends, even the experts, but ultimately you decide for yourself what is right—what is possible or impossible to attempt

MY 36-YEAR JUDICIAL CAREER proved this principle. I won all my 7 elections and became Chief Justice when the experts said it was “impossible “:

- in 1974 “Impossible” for a young woman from Louisiana with no fortune to finance a campaign and no Irish name, to unseat the incumbent and be elected probate judge

- in 1986 “Impossible” for a young judge from tiny Leelanau (14,000 people) to be elected Court of Appeals judge by 3 million people in 66 counties

- in 1994 “Impossible” for a Court of Appeals judge from tiny Leelanau to be elected a Supreme Court justice by 10 million people in all 83 counties.

The principle of Don't Attempt the Impossible. But You Decide What's Possible doesn't just apply to politics. It applies in everything in life including of course business and economics:

Let me briefly share with you 2 examples of businesses in this area started by women who applied this principle

1st GWEN FROSTIC-

In the 1950's Gwen was a very talented though physically impaired artist who wanted to start a printing business for producing stationary and books containing her sketches and drawings of north woods animals and nature. She need \$500. The bank turned her down flat. "Impossible" they said. Gwen persevered, got the money elsewhere. Became enormously successful and wealthy. Before her death, Gwen was honored many times for her achievements. At a Chamber of Commerce event, she said "I want you to know the rest of the story. After I became successful that same bank came to me and wanted to handle my investments. I turned them down."

2nd BECKY THATCHER—

In the mid eighties, Becky, a young jewelry designer building her jewelry business, needed a \$3000 line of credit to get through the off-season. The bank turned her down. Again, "Impossible." No collateral. (They didn't tell her she could use her car as collateral.) Even her parents thought she should be a teacher as they were. Becky persevered and succeeded. Like Gwen Frostic, the bank came back to Becky for her business --with an apology for their past mistake. They reached a mutually beneficial agreement. Today Becky Thatcher Designs has 4 shops in Michigan: Glen Arbor, Leland, Traverse City and Harbor Springs.

Perhaps you might be interested in the remainder of my 10 Principles for Living. They are on my website. www.justiceweaver.com on the Home page under Principles. Here quickly they are:

10. **Don't Attempt the Impossible.** But you decide what is possible. By all means, listen to friends and relatives and even the experts, but ultimately decide for yourself what is right, what is possible or impossible to attempt.

9. **Do Your Best.** The reward is in the doing.

8. **Do Right and Fear Not.** It's simple to say but is not always easily accomplished. Followed, it will see you through life's temptations and challenges.

7. **Take Opportunities When Available.** They rarely come at what you conceive of as a perfect time.

6. **Avoid Unnecessary Disputes and Confrontations.** They cause friction, and friction wears things out.

5. **Don't Let the Turkeys Get You Down.**

4. **You Catch More Bees With Honey Than Vinegar But Sometimes You Need Vinegar To Clean The Windows.** Treat people as you would have them treat you.

3. **Realize That People Don't Always Do What's Right for the Right Reasons.** Just help yourself and them do what's right for whatever the reasons.

2. **Be Confident.** Don't Get Caught Up in Competition. Each of us has a reason for being. We need to have faith that we all have our own place in life -- and that no one can do it for us or take it from us.

1. **Be a Goodfinder.** Be a person who seeks out the good in himself or herself and others.

Finally I have reviewed your busy program but hope you find time, perhaps Saturday afternoon for a quick 10 minute drive over to Gwen Frostic's in Benzie; and Sunday when the weather promise is sunny and 60, for a 30-minute drive to Empire to the Leelanau Stocking Drive Lookout and then take a couple of hours to go on into Glen Arbor to Becky Thatcher Jewelry Designs and the Cherry Republic, up to Leland to Fishtown and Carlson's for smoked fish and over to Suttons Bay to Bahle's and the Wildbird. It will be well worth your time.

Have a most fruitful and joyful conference. My best to you all.