

POLITIFAX

A Weekly Electronic Newsletter on Politics in **NEW JERSEY**

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Primaries to Watch

Who's Hot

John Basilone, Tony Bennett, Brendan Byrne, Mary Higgins Clark, Bull Halsey, Franco Harris, Leon Hess, Queen Latifah, Bucky Pizzarelli, Martha Stewart, Joe Theisman, John Travolta, and Bruce Willis

This year's entrants into the New Jersey Hall of Fame -- at NJ PAC on Sunday -- are a Medal of Honor winner, a magnificent crooner, a former Governor, a novelist, the commender in the South Pacific during World War II, a

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Quote of the Week

One of our wags, noting that Steve Adubato Sr. had been inducted into the Essex County Democratic Hall of Fame, concluded that *"If they had a Republican Hall of Fame, he'd be in there too."*

OVERVIEW. There really are only two, perhaps three, races in which somebody could win off the line.

DISTRICT 20 DEMOCRATS. This is the lone district in which a well-financed full legislative ticket (Jerome Dunn, Tony Monteiro, and Carlos Cedeno) has launched a full scale onslaught against incumbents (Ray Lesniak, Joe Cryan, and Annette Quijano). The news for the last week has been all about the challengers' money, which a judge froze. Union County Assignment Judge Karen Cassidy unfroze one account and allowed the challengers to resume publication of a newspaper they've been using to attack the incumbents. Cassidy did not, however, unfreeze an account containing about \$150,000 from the proceeds of a dinner held a week ago. Monteiro said he'll lend the campaign the money to keep going. But the story doesn't end there. Democrats have pointed out that the Elizabeth Board of Education, from which much of the challengers' support comes, was a hotbed of support for the Governor in 2009. Former Board President Rafael Fajardo was a big supporter and served on the Governor's Education Task Force during the Transition. *There is a call for an investigation into the Board, and John Wisniewski echoed that sentiment. Reporters asked the Governor what he thought, and he sidestepped the question by saying that "prosecutors, not politicians," should make that determination.*

DISTRICT 25 REPUBLICANS. Bill Chegwidden has been lambasting Tony Bucco Sr. and Jr. with questions about what work Bucco's law partners do as members of Bucco's legislative staff and about whether the Senator had anything to do with getting lots of municipal work for the Assemblyman's law firm. Then came a rehashing of a

included his Senate business
Economic Development Dep
interest loan to buy the Pater
Bucco got the loan and subse

The Gubernatorial Watch

TURF WAR. The Governor has a way of showing up in the most politically interesting places. There he was last week swearing in Felix Roque, who called him the “first Hispanic Governor of New Jersey,” as West New York Mayor, while Albio Sires, who has never numbered the Governor among his closest friends, was doing the same for the other four commissioners. Governors, you say, do this sort of thing all the time. Well, Republican Governors don’t do this sort of thing all the time -- at least not in Hudson County. Brian Stack brokered the Governor’s initial meeting

