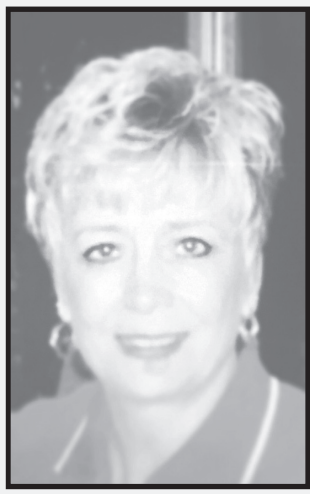


Converse All-Star Sneakers



Times Remembered
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I've recently noticed a surprising new trend in women's footwear. Normally, I don't pay that much attention, but I noticed my daughter and several others wearing shoes that athletes wore in the 60s. In fact, that was the only basketball shoe in those days. Now kids are wearing them with everything. They come in all colors. Those are Converse All Star sneakers.

"Cons," as they were called then, were white canvas high-top sneakers with a blue star in the ankle patch and the name "Chuck Taylor" around the star. Taylor was the primary sales person for Converse early on. He was a member of the basketball team that Converse sponsored in the 1920s; he made suggestions for the comfort of the shoe that helped make it one of the best-selling basketball shoes of all time.

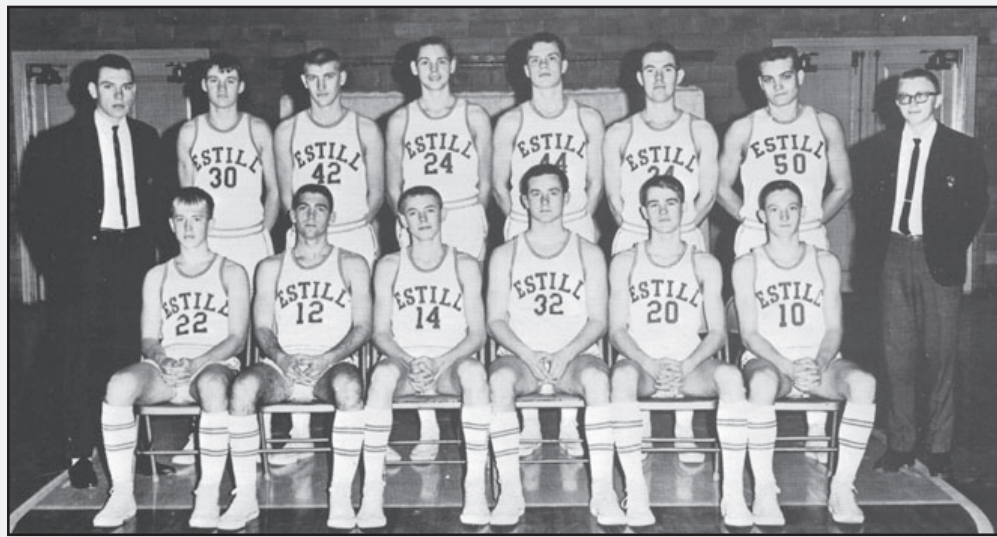
In the 60s, these sneakers were the most popular basketball sneaker on the market, and everyone wanted a pair. Converse cost about \$10.00 in 1965, which was a sizeable amount in those days. The high school basketball teams all wore them.

Kids those days wanted Converse sneakers like kids now want Jordan's, Kevin Durant's or Stephen Curry's basketball shoes. Colton, my grandson must have 50 pair of famous shoes that cost

way more than \$10.00 a pair. They probably cost a \$100.00 or more a pair. He outgrows them in a month or two; since his feet are growing so fast. I don't see how parents afford them; but they do somehow.

In the 60s after basketball season many of guys would wear them to school and come summertime they worked and played in them. They lasted through the summer and early fall until it was time to get a new pair of high-tops for next basketball season.

50 years have passed since kids wore those Converse sneakers to play basketball. Other sneaker companies have surpassed Chuck Taylor to dominate the high school, college and professional basketball market. But whenever I see girls wearing them in assorted colors, I travel back nostalgically to my youth and fondly recall Converse All Star sneakers.



1967 ECHS Varsity in their Converse All-Stars: Left to right, front: David Birchfield, Lloyd Wiseman, Larry McMaine, Lawrence Hughes, Charles Sparks, Randall Meek. Second row: Gary Jones, manager, L. Richardson, Paul Dennis, Larry Noland, Rodney Brewer, Harry "Terry" Jones, Wayne Aines and Michael B. Tipton, manager.

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Why I Worry About The Kentucky Soybean Farmer



Far too often, politics becomes little more than a football game. It's all about winning for each side. The media covers it like it's entertainment, especially on cable news. The most important issues of the day become a contest as to which side can do a better job extracting campaign funds and making the other side look bad.

Both parties do it, and we — as Americans — suffer. Let me give you an example of the problem right here in our district.

Soybeans are very important to Kentucky's 6th congressional district — with over 64,000 acres planted. And now we are in the middle of a trade war with countries like China who are, predictably, retaliating with their own tariffs on products such as soybeans.

As a result, Kentucky farmers now have to wake up each morning worrying not only about how things like weather are going to affect their crops, but also how our national policies are going to hurt their bottom line.

But tariffs aren't even their only major concern. There's health care, as well.

According to a 2017 study by the Trump Administration's Department of Agriculture, the average farmer is 58 years old. Overwhelmingly, they are independent businessmen or women, and 64% have pre-existing conditions.

These facts, combined, put them at even greater financial risk if changes in the law permit insurers to charge even more for older people, or for pre-existing conditions — which is exactly what the changes to the Affordable Care Act proposed by congressional Republicans would have done.

According to that USDA study, 73% of farmers said that having affordable health care was critically important in reducing their business risk, and 52% were not confident that they could pay the costs of a major illness such as heart attack or cancer or loss of limb without going into debt. Nearly as many (45%) worried that they would have to sell their farm to address a major illness.

So, when we see the current administration, and the Republican Party, working so hard to destroy the Affordable Care Act, this isn't some cable television sporting event with combatants from both parties yelling into our TV sets. It's real life for Kentucky farmers.

And if health care worries weren't enough, our soybean farmers now have to wonder what it will mean for them if this trade war becomes a permanent fixture, and China keeps its 25% tariffs on soybean imports for years.

Tariffs will not only imperil the ability to get affordable health insurance: It will affect our farmers' ability simply to make ends meet. In recent months, the price that these farmers get for their soybeans has dropped a staggering 25 percent.

Republicans like to argue that they are the party of the rural voter. Well, now that they control the White House, Congress, our Governor's Mansion, and the Kentucky legislature, it's time to ask ourselves whether their policies are helping our communities?

As we are now witnessing, when it comes to health care and earning a living as a farmer, I don't believe they are — and that's one of the reasons I'm running for Congress.

While I grew up here in Kentucky, my husband's family has owned a farm in rural West Virginia for decades. I've spent many evenings there, hearing Aunt Velma talk about the struggles of running it, even in good times.

I spent a career putting my country before everything else — especially when I fought in combat in Afghanistan and Iraq. And when I decided to retire from the United States Marines after 20 years, I moved back to my beloved Kentucky and ran for office because I want to go to Congress to do the same thing for the 6th District.

We will not agree on every issue, and I'm guessing there are reasons why, even though a majority of folks in our district are registered as Democrats, they often vote Republican in general elections. Maybe it's because Democrats have been doing a poor job

of fielding candidates that share your values or understand and care about your life.

But I'm a Democrat because it was leadership in the Democratic Party that changed the law about women serving in combat and gave me a chance to compete for the job of being a fighter pilot. I didn't ask for special treatment. I simply wanted a chance to compete with the men, and I did. It allowed me to earn the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marines.

I don't think the Democratic Party has all the answers. Both sides need to learn to work together once again. I even have some practical experience on that issue, too — my husband, Erik, is a life-long Republican. We've managed to make our marriage work just fine, despite our occasional differences. So, I don't think our current dysfunction in Washington is beyond repair. We just need to elect new people who are committed to working together on the issues facing our nation.

I am proud to say that I have field offices in all 19 counties. When is the last time you remember a Democrat running for federal office ever doing that?

Well, I am serious when I say that I intend to represent all 19 counties when I'm elected — not just the biggest (Fayette) or where I live (Scott). 18 out of the 19 counties voted for me in the May primary, and I am so grateful for that vote of confidence. I will continue to work just as hard to earn your trust on November 6th.

It's time we send people to Congress who look at the issue of health care and tariffs and immediately think about the Kentucky soybean farmer, and not treat it as just another political football game where the winning side can raise a little more campaign money and win re-election. I'll go to Congress and fight for you. And if I'm just a one-term member of Congress because I won't play that political game, I'll be fine with that.



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