

**The Daily Star August 31, 2006**

**Letter to the Editor**

**Trust Mundy's judgment of sheriff**

An important election is approaching for residents of Otsego County. A primary will be held on Sept. 12, followed by the general election in November, to determine who our next sheriff will be.

Little doubt exists that a number of people in our community who have retired from law enforcement careers now feel they are qualified for the office of sheriff. However, it is not the responsibility of the taxpayers to subsidize a second or "retirement" job for anyone.

We have relied on current Sheriff Mundy's judgment for many years. Why would we not continue to accept his judgment in the selection of a new sheriff? He has endorsed and recommended Richard Devlin for the position, and the Republican Committee has done the same.

Mr. Devlin has served in the Sheriff's Department for many years. He has earned the respect of his supervisors, his peers and the community. This job is his only job, and he is in the prime of what should be a rewarding career. He is familiar with the policies and procedures of the department, and he has an excellent working relationship with members of the department. What purpose would be served to now elect an outsider to take over the office?

It seems the old saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" is applicable here. I would suggest that Richard Devlin has earned the privilege to be our next sheriff.

**David K. Butler Sr., Cooperstown**