

DINNER

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U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers was originally supposed to be one of them, but had to be in Washington instead for a House Appropriations Committee hearing involving U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. However, in addition to Barr — the current Congressman from Lexington and Kentucky's sixth district who is trying to replace the outgoing McConnell in the Senate — and Cameron — the former Kentucky attorney general from Louisville who was last on the political scene running for governor three years ago — the dinner also heard words from Kentucky Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert, Congressman Rogers' Chief of Staff Karen Kelly, and Kentucky State Senate President Robert Stivers.

However, the Lincoln Day Dinner is most abuzz when there's an election looming, and with next Tuesday's Primary fresh on the mind, the crowd was filled with candidates from all sorts of local races, who had the opportunity to meet with others at the dinner and be acknowledged by Republican Party Chairman Alex Wilson, helming his second banquet with the county's Lincoln Club.

Wilson also payed recognition to America's 250th birthday this year, and honored several individuals — Cynthia Rogers, wife of Congressman Hal Rogers — and some others who are leaving the political stage, in 52nd State House District Rep. Ken Upchurch, former Pulaski GOP chairman Bill Turpen, and Donna Baker, retiring area field representative for McConnell.

Of the two U.S. Senate candidates, Cameron got the chance to go first, saying that it was a race "about track record," and acknowledged that the crowd wasn't necessarily there to see him or Barr

but were there, he said, "because you care about your kids and your grand-kids." He stressed the idea of a country based on merit and opportunity, "and not one that is driven by the divisions that we see placed on us or pushed on us by the far left, namely in the form of diversity, equity and inclusion," or DEI as related programs are often known.

"This isn't necessarily a race about Republican vs. Democrat; this, in many ways, is a race about common sense vs. crazy," said Cameron, "and we need to ensure that in Washington, we have someone that's standing firm for your common sense ideas."

With it being National Police Week, Cameron, as an attorney and former state AG, pledged to stand with law enforcement officers and against talk of defunding police. He also touched on items including passing the SAVE Act at the national level designed to require proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in elections, passing a farm bill that helps those in rural agriculture, his own efforts to reopen churches following Governor Andy Beshear's orders to close in-person services in the midst of COVID, and of

course, the subject of taxes and economics.

"When it comes to the United States Senate, let's make sure (we're) keeping our taxes as low as they possibly can be so that we can pay for groceries and gas and even saving a little for the long haul," said Cameron. "We know instinctively that when it comes to the bureaucracy in Washington, they don't need our tax (money). We the people of this great commonwealth need our money because we know how best to use it."

Barr emphasized his own endorsement from President Donald Trump in the race to replace McConnell, as well as one from Rogers, and put forth three points of argument to support his bid, noting that he has been with Trump "all the way" on a variety of subjects, including specifically tax cuts, energy, border security, and issues regarding transgender participants in boys' and girls' sports — for which Barr said he did the "common sense thing" and introduced the "Defend Girls Athletics Acts" last year to prevent school districts from receiving federal funds if they don't comply with Trump's executive orders on the matter.



CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, a candidate for the U.S. Senate seat from Kentucky being vacated by Mitch McConnell in this year's elections, spoke at the Lincoln Day Dinner Monday at The Center for Rural Development.

"It's not just that President Trump has signaled his confidence in my candidacy, that I will be with him all the way. It's that, that's a good thing for Kentucky," said Barr. "It's a good thing that I have a relationship with this president. It will make me a more effective U.S. Senator, that I can pick up the phone with his cabinet ... That makes me a more effective representative voice for the people of

Kentucky." Barr also noted that he's "ready on day one" because he's already been in Washington since 2013, and with Kentucky potentially "losing influence in the United States Senate" with the departure of the longstanding McConnell, at one point the GOP Majority Leader, and he can "hit the ground running" in a new role as a senator. Barr's third argument in his favor had to do with what he pointed to as diversity in the Republican Party in Kentucky, the different types of conservative philosophy exhibited by the state's major players.

"I've been asked ever since I was first elected to Congress ... 'Hey, you're a Republican from Kentucky. Are you a Rand Paul Republican or a Mitch McConnell Republican?'" said Barr, referring to the two Kentucky senators known for being more libertarian or more mainstream, respectively. "With all respect to both gentlemen, and I respect both, I answer the same way every time: I'm neither. I'm an Andy Barr Republican. ... At the end of the day, whatever flavor of Republican you are, whatever variety, whatever faction you think you come from,

we must stay united." Lambert is a resident of Somerset and served the area as a Family Court Judge for the 28th Judicial Circuit, before joining the state's Court of Appeals and, in 2018, the Kentucky Supreme Court, where she began a term as chief justice of the state's highest court last year. Lambert acknowledged that while she might be speaking to a partisan crowd, it's vitally important in her role on the bench not to view issues through the lens of party politics, joking that she even sometimes agrees with the referees on unfavorable calls during University of Kentucky basketball games to the chagrin of her husband Joe Sharpe, who favors the home team.

"That's the way our great country was designed, and how you expect it to operate," said Lambert. "It's often that our court system has to try to settle the troubled waters in our country. So when you hear a story on the news or on Facebook (saying) that a judge has made a terrible decision, even one that you don't agree with (or) don't think you agree with, it's important to actually go

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CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

Daniel Cameron, former Kentucky Attorney General and a candidate for the U.S. Senate from the state in this year's elections, spoke Monday at the Lincoln Day Dinner at The Center for Rural Development.

MARKET

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staples like burgers and sandwiches, will be on hand with the food, while the Dirty Boba will supply the tasty beverage for visitors.

And, if baked goods are more what one is looking for, Spillman said that the Daughters of the American Revolution will be on hand those as part of a fundraiser.

There will be a variety of other crafters and vendors, from people who come from all areas of Pulaski as well as Richmond, Lexington, Albany, Russell Springs, McCreary County, Monticello and possibly even Tennessee.

The handmade crafts run the range from jewelry, paintings, woodworking, fabric items and soap.

Spillman highlighted a few of the vendors, saying that Russell Dahlstrom

with Durustric will be on hand. "He'll take an old ax or something and make a work of art out of it," Spillman said.

Then, there is Patricia Bodine with Glass Trail Treasure. "She makes jewelry out of old glass that she finds," Spillman said. "She grinds it and buffs it and does whatever (it needs), which is kind of neat."

He also said that while most of the artists on hand will be members of the Sheltoewe guild, there will

also be a few guests that may become Sheltoewe additions in the future.

The artisans guild requires a member to be

juried, or have their work inspected by an expert in that particular field to determine whether the work is of a quality worthy to

belong to the guild, he said. "In order to be a member, you have to submit five pieces of your work," he said.

The guild is always looking for new members. For more information, visit the website at <https://sheltoeweartisans.org/>.

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Somerset will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of uniforms for the emergency services departments (Fire and Police). The bid price will be in effect for one year beginning July 1, 2026 and extending thru June 30, 2027 with the option to renew for another year at the same prices. Specifications for the bid may be picked up at the Energy Center located at 306 E. Mt. Vernon Street. Bids should be addressed as follows:

Attn: Uniform Bid
City of Somerset
306 E. Mt. Vernon St.
Somerset, KY 42501

The bids must be received no later than 1 0:00am on June 3, 2026. The City of Somerset reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept any proposal as may be deemed to its interest, orto award by item, combination of items, or lot.

INVITATION TO BID

The Somerset/Pulaski EMS will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of uniforms. The bid price will be in effect for one year beginning July 1, 2026 and extending thru June 30, 2027 with the option to renew for another year at the same prices. Specifications for the bid may be picked up at the Energy Center located at 306 E. Mt. Vernon Street. Bids should be addressed as follows:

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