

National, state leaders recall McCall for courage, integrity

PORTLAND (AP) — Former Gov. Tom McCall's death Saturday brought an outpouring of remembrances of the man whose breadth of service to the state he loved would set a standard for years to come.

McCall, 69, died of cancer — which first struck in 1973 — at Good Samaritan Hospital here. He served from 1967 to 1975 as the state's 30th governor.

Gov. Vic Atiyeh, ordering all flags in the state to fly at half-staff, said McCall's "breadth of service to Oregon is difficult to totally comprehend. We remember his firm and decisive stewardship of our resources and our livability."

"We remember his high ideals, translated into everyday reality that led the nation. And we remember him as a governor and citizen of tremendous conscience, integrity and outspoken independence, fearlessly speaking his mind whenever and wherever Oregon values were challenged."

Atiyeh said his "unique magnetism and special qualities of

leadership left an indelible mark upon the history of our entire state."

Pres. Ronald Reagan issued a statement calling McCall "an effective, dynamic and constructive force for Oregon and the nation."

"He faced death candidly and openly in the same way he faced all his political and personal challenges," said Reagan, who served as California governor during McCall's stewardship of Oregon.

McCall's wife, Audrey, said she had "a feeling of great relief. Tom was in such terrible agony that it's nice to know he's out the pain."

She said he had had considerable pain for a year "but he would never give up."

"We know he accomplished everything he set out to do. When he was so ill I fought against him doing all these things but now I'm glad he did. I consider myself very fortunate to have had him for 43 years and it wasn't long enough," she said.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., said, "Few people in public life have had a greater gift of communication than Tom McCall. He articulated his causes with eloquence and charm. He had a zest for life that will live beyond his years, and we will all miss him."

McCall and Clay Myers, the state treasurer, were "friends for 37 years," Myers said. "He appointed me to replace him as secretary of state when he became governor," Myers said.

"Tom McCall, dedicated to the preservation and protection of the quality of life, rates as a triple-A Oregonian. With immense love and concern for people, Tom coupled great vision with the ability to inspire others. His daring awakened us to what we value in Oregon," Myers said.

"Oregon has lost his best friend," said Ron Schmidt, McCall's former executive assistant. "But the legacy he leaves makes the parting so much easier, and that is how he would wish it to be."

Activist dies of encephalitis

By Marian Green
Of the Emerald

John Kaiser, a University graduate and campus activist, died Jan. 3. He was 26.

Kaiser, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, was visiting his family in Sparks, Nev., when he was suddenly stricken with encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain.

An autopsy will be conducted because of an uncommonly high carbon monoxide level in his blood, a RCYB spokesman said.

Family members were at his bedside when Kaiser died at St. Mary's Hospital in Reno, Nev.

"We feel we tried to live according to our beliefs, but John did that more than any of us," said his mother, Phyllis Kaiser, in a statement the RCYB released. "He lived and died them."

Kaiser, who held a University bachelor's degree in sociology, was one of the RCYB's most visible and vocal members.

He'd spend hours outside the EMU hawking copies of the "Revolutionary Communist Worker," distributing RCYB leaflets and debating with University students on foreign policy, capitalism, communism and other issues he believed strongly in.

For the half-dozen active RCYB members, Kaiser's death came suddenly and unexpectedly.

"His death is a real loss to us and to the international proletariat," said Nancy Whitley, friend and co-defendant in the yellow ribbon-burning trial, which resulted in a 1981 felony arson conviction for the two RCYB members.

Just six days after Kaiser's death, the Oregon Court of Appeals ruled against his appeal of that conviction, which stemmed from an 1980 incident when Kaiser and Whitley burned a yellow ribbon during a speech in the EMU Ballroom by freed Iranian hostage Victor Tomseth. The RCYB says it will appeal that ruling to the state supreme court.



Emerald Photo

John Kaiser was a fixture outside the EMU, distributing RCYB leaflets and debating with University students.

Whitley said Kaiser always saw "to the heart of the problem and really understood."

"The way he lived his life is a big challenge for us to follow that uncompromising road," she said. "His death is helping me direct my anger about the problems of society."

A branch group of the Revolutionary Communist Party, the RCYB says its objective is "to be part of and work towards a revolution, part of the process

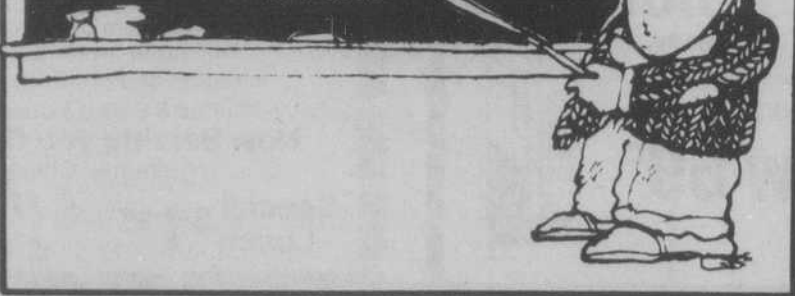
for transforming society and getting rid of oppression."

RCYB members plan a campus memorial service Jan. 18 or 19. The exact time and place will be posted later.

RCYB members said Kaiser fought for his beliefs to the end. In the hospital shortly before his death, Kaiser was rapidly losing his voice, but he still managed to raise his fist while discussing his appeals case with his family, they said.

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