

IN MEMORIAM

Gary D. Kirkland

May 19, 1947 - Sept. 8, 2017

Gary Kirkland, a long-time member of Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 11, passed away Sept. 8, 2017, following a short bout with cancer. He was 70 years old.



Kirkland was involved with OPEIU for 40 years. At the age of 28 he was elected a vice president to the international union's Executive Board, and he served as an international representative. Prior to that he was an organizer and business representative for Local 11.

He was appointed secretary-treasurer of Local 11 in January 1978, following the resignation of Stu Crosby. Eight months later, International President Howard Coughlin appointed him to be OPEIU's regional director of organizing. The new responsibility came in addition to his duties as head of Local 11, and as an international vice president. He served as Local 11's secretary-treasurer until May 2002, when he lost re-election.

During his tenure, Kirkland negotiated landmark "joint accords" with NW Natural Gas that guaranteed no layoffs. The last contract he bargained in 1997 was a seven-year deal. It was preceded by five-year and three-year agreements guaranteeing no layoffs.

During his career Kirkland also served on the Executive Board of the Multnomah County Labor Council (and later the Northwest Oregon Labor Coun-

cil) as a representative of the Maritime Trades Council. He served for many years as president of the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Board of Directors, and on the Executive Board of the Union Labor Retirement Association, which operates Kirkland Union Manors I, II, and III, Westmoreland Union Manor, Marshall Union Manor, and Kirkland Union Plaza. The federally-financed apartment buildings for retired workers carry the name of Kirkland's father, labor leader Earl Kirkland, who was a founder.

GARY DEAN KIRKLAND was born in Vancouver, Washington, on May 19, 1947, to Earl B. and Lois (Hash) Kirkland. After graduating from Columbia River High School in 1965, he attended Clark Community College while working at Alcoa Aluminum. Kirkland enlisted and served in the U.S. Army as a transportation rank staff sergeant. After the military he entered the apprenticeship program of Heat and Frost Insulators Local 36. Shortly after that he started his career with OPEIU.

Kirkland is survived by his wife, Nancy; son, Dean; daughter, Brandi M. Kirkland; their mother, Janice M. (Mahoney); two grandchildren; and three sisters. He was preceded in death by his son, Kristian; twin brother, Larry; and his parents.

A memorial service with full military honors was held Sept. 22 in Vancouver. Remembrances can be made to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at www.rmef.org.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Labor Roundtable pays tribute to allies in SW Washington

VANCOUVER — A record 274 union members, politicians, family, and friends attended the 33rd annual Labor Roundtable of Southwest Washington awards banquet, held Sept. 29 at the Vancouver Hilton Hotel and Convention Center. Awards were presented to individuals and organizations whose leadership has made a significant impact on organized labor and the community at large.

Washington Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib, the keynote speaker, said when the average person talks about 'making America great again,' they're not thinking about immigration or the environment. They're nostalgic for economic security. "That's what people remember. They remember having a union that represented them. Having wages that kept up with — and actually led — the standard of living; a pension so they could protect and plan for their future. They had health insurance that made sure they were taken care of and their kids were taken care of. They had labor protections at the workplace so that they wouldn't get injured, but if they got injured they would have good federal protections and workers' compensation. And they had a plan to be able to buy a home and invest in their kids' future because of the work that unions did. ... We need to make sure that we remember the recipe for greatness in this country. We know what it was. ... We know how to do all that."

Award recipients were:

Phil Parker Public Service Award for Excellence:
Evelina Kurilenko, Supervisor, Clark County Sheriff's Office

Union Member of the Year:

Carl Sofie, United Food & Commercial Workers #365

Labor Leader of the Year:

Gil Freeland, Vice President, Plumbers & Fitters #290

Labor Union of the Year:

Operating Engineers Local 701

Community Service:

Marc Boldt, Chair, Board of Clark County Councilors

Lifetime Achievement:

Gay Lincoln, Machinists District W24

Labor Service Award:

Brian Wolfe, Port of Vancouver Commissioner

Business of the Year:

Cowlitz Indian Tribe

Legislator of the Year:

Sharon Wylie, State Rep 49th District

In Solidarity Award:

*Katie Archer Jolma
President, Clark County Democratic Women
Presented by the SW Washington Central Labor Council*

Citizens Honored for Military Service:

Richard Brown, Laborers #335, US Army 1958-1962



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