

This is Phil Arnott for community comment on K INS radio

in 1982 I was the campaign chairman in Humboldt County for George Deukmejian who was running for governor of the state of California. I got to know George Deukmejian on a personal basis and he was truly a great servant for us citizens of this great state of California.

He was the 35th Gov. of the state and he served from 1982 to 1986 and prior to that he served in the state assembly the California Senate and served two terms as attorney general.

In a recent article of the criminal Justice legal foundation a full-page was spent on the service of George Deukmejian. Unfortunately he died on June 8 of natural causes at the age of 89. According to this article and I can assure you that it's accurate, George Deukmejian was raised old school to value honesty, respect and hard work. As this article states those traits have almost completely been abandoned by the current popular culture.

In 1982 when he ran for governor he supported a landmark criminal justice reform bill to restore consequences for habitual criminals. He won the election that year and the initiative passed. The law had a national impact on law enforcement inspiring other states to follow California's lead.

In his judicial appointments he filled most vacancies with former prosecutors and elevated experienced jurists who exercised judicial restraint to the appellate courts according to this article and I have to agree, he was not a typical politician. He always told the truth and he never sold out. According to this article this often infuriated other politicians. While he was basically a private person he gave up his privacy to serve the greater good.

Unfortunately George Deukmejian died on June 8 of this year of natural causes at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, two daughters and one son. As this article says, our world would be a better place were there more like him willing to serve today. He will be missed.

On a lighter side and because of my personal relationship with George Deukmejian, we were in Portland Oregon celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary with our family at a nice restaurant. There were about 12 of us having dinner when my cell phone rang. I answered the phone and spoke to George Deukmejian who congratulated my wife and I on our 60th wedding anniversary.

He was truly a wonderful man and we will all miss him. There is so much more I could say about it George Deukmejian but there is no time in this comment to do that.

I leave you with a point to ponder: don't you wish that there were more politicians out there like George Deukmejian to keep our country and our state on the straight and narrow?

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