



McKeldin's Service, Leadership Recalled

The governor, the mayor, and a host of other civic leaders, friends and former colleagues hastened to pay tribute today to the memory of Theodore R. McKeldin.

They recalled Mr. McKeldin's unselfish public service and outstanding record during his two terms as mayor of Baltimore and governor of Maryland, his farsighted leadership in undertaking important public work, his untiring efforts as a champion of human rights and his success as a self-made political phenomenon.

Said Gov. Mandel: "He was a great humanitarian and a true gentleman whose entire life was devoted to fighting the petty prejudices that separate people. He enjoyed a distinguished career in public service that it achieved by few men."

And Republican Sen. Charles McC. Mathias observed:

"Ted McKeldin was a Baltimore original. His style has been imitated but never duplicated. He had a monopoly on charisma before we knew what the term meant. A steadfast Republican, he had a personal appeal that transcended party lines and cut across all class and ethnic barriers. We are richer for having known him, poorer for having lost him."

"His eloquence and grace set him apart but he never lost the common touch," said Mayor Schaefer.

"We have lost a great man. Few in the history of our city and our state have equalled the stature of Theodore R. McKeldin. His contributions as mayor and as governor will be remembered as long as we have a tradition of unselfish public service."

Among those who expressed

their warm regard for Mr. McKeldin, and their sadness of his death today, were former mayors Thomas D'Alesandro III and J. Harold Grady.

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"Although we came from different political parties," said D'Alesandro, who is a Democrat, "I considered Mayor McKeldin a close friend. As City Council president in his administration, I found him to be compassionate in his response to human needs and an innovator in the administration of state and city government."

D'Alesandro was council president from 1963 to 1967 and was himself mayor from 1967 to 1971.

Judge Grady, who is now a member of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore and was mayor from 1959 to 1962, said being on the other side of the ballot from Mr. McKeldin, never disrupted their warm friendship.

"I was saddened along with all other Maryland citizens by the news of his passing," Judge Grady said. "His zest for living was best illustrated by the interest he showed in being with and helping people. It was perhaps his most admirable characteristic."

Another friend was City Council President Walter S. Orlinsky, who called Mr. McKeldin, "a leader with foresight and vision."

"I know I share a great sense of regret and sorrow at the passing of a gentleman," Orlinsky said. "He will be sorely missed."

Judge Joseph L. Carter, who was appointed to the Supreme Bench of Baltimore by Gov. McKeldin in 1952 and recently retired, said the two had known each other since their days in law school at the University of Maryland.

"We were good friends," the judge added. "I truly regret his passing."

"I never knew anyone to consider him an enemy," said State Sen. Harry J. McGuirk, D-5th. "He was a great personality."

Rep. Paul S. Sarbanes said: "Maryland has lost a great public servant. Gov. Theodore McKeldin was a leader of extraordinary humanity and decency. As governor, mayor, and private citizen, his every action was marked by a deep and uncompromising commitment to the brotherhood of man and to the American ideals of equality and justice."

"His death is a great loss for the people of Maryland, whom he loved so deeply and served so unselfishly."

And deputy city solicitor Ambrose T. Hartman recalled the days when he would sit beside Mr. McKeldin during meetings of the Board of Estimates, arguing on behalf of the mayor's programs.

Among those programs were proposals for the city's Community Action Agency and bills that laid the foundations of Model Cities. Those two programs, now combined, have put more than \$30 million into aid for the city's most poverty-stricken citizens.

Reporters who covered Mayor McKeldin remember him as a great story-teller, giver of proclamations, and public streaker. His was one of the most open city administrations in recent years. He held daily press conferences, often reporting on his programs several times in the course of a day.

As Hartman said, "He may have been the last of the old-school gracious politicians in this state."

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