



AUSTRALIAN
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In memoriam Hon Joseph Duffey

Hon Joe Duffey was an icon of the Democratic Party, having received the baton of the Americans for Democratic Action from JK Galbraith at the close of the 1960s.

In 1970 at the age of 35, Joe ran a notable anti-Vietnam War campaign for the US Senate in Connecticut. Several of Joe's young supporters went on to prominent Democrat political careers, including future President Bill Clinton—at the time a student at Yale Law School.

President Clinton said he missed half his Yale classes trying to get Joe Duffey elected to the Senate.

- **“There were so many of us who were drawn to his deep commitment to peace, economic fairness and civil rights. Joe lost the election, but he left us all prouder, wiser in the ways of politics and richer in lifelong friends....I'll always be grateful for the impact he had on my life.”**

Joe's campaign co-chairman Paul Newman -- in the afterglow of “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” -- observed:

- **You know where Joe Duffey stands. He always gives you a straight answer. You may not like the answer, but he always gives you one.”**

Joe's career in higher education and government appointments, including six years as Director of the US Information Agency during the Clinton Presidency, has been well documented.

Joe was an early US delegate to the Australian American Leadership Dialogue, from 1994 onwards. His was an influential voice, selectively deployed and well targeted. He was an excellent listener and embodied the AALD definition of leadership as “creating new space in the service of others”. He reached easily across the political aisle and, when expressing his clear views, always set an example of personal courtesy.

Meeting Joe was like peeling an onion. Once a new discussion point was raised, it was time to listen as he dived deeply into the subject. It was useful to remind oneself that by the time he ran for the US Senate in 1970 he was already a veteran of several civil rights “Freedom Rides”.

Joe's 1970 campaign manager was Anne Wexler who he subsequently married. Joe was an inspiration to Anne and a rock for her as she forged a successful lobbying practise in a male dominated town. Joe and Anne became a power couple in Washington DC, and committed supporters of the bipartisan AALD.

- **Anne was later awarded an Honorary AO for her services to Australian American relations and to the AALD.**
- **Joe was dedicated to the intergenerational imperative and was influential in the creation of the Young Leadership Dialogue.**



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The Anne Wexler Fellowships were a direct outcome of Anne's leadership on behalf of the Leadership Dialogue in the United States.

- **Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced the Anne Wexler Fellowships at the August 2009 AALD Gala Dinner in Melbourne.**
- **He had met Anne at the inaugural AALD dinner in Washington DC, June 1993.**
- **The AALD Board recommended the Australian Fulbright Commission as the logical home for administering the Anne Wexler Fellowships.**
- **Having personally had the privilege to serve on the Fulbright Board in Australia 1993-5, I was in agreement after confirming that this was Joe's own desire.**

Joe Duffey like many of our earliest AALD delegates was one of a kind – selfless and intuitively aware that service is our culture and the AALD mission is about future generations, and about everyone other than oneself.

Joe was a man from whom one learned a great deal.

We honour him.

**Phil Scanlan AM
Founder**

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