



Clifford Wayne Trow

July 27, 1929 - October 31, 2023

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Clifford W. Trow died Tuesday morning, October 31 at the age of 94 at Willamette Springs Memory Care with his family at his side. He was born in July 1929, in Topeka, Kansas and grew up in Salina along with an older brother and sister and a younger sister. He graduated from Kansas Wesleyan University with an honors degree in history in 1951. He then began a 45-year teaching career when he became a high school social studies teacher in Kansas and later in Boulder, Colorado. While in Boulder he pursued graduate degrees in history at the University of Colorado, completing his Ph.D. in 1966. Through his contact with CU summer term professor from Oregon State University, George Barr Carson, Cliff was offered a professorial position at OSU and arrived in Corvallis in the fall of 1965 as a member of the history department.

Whether teaching large western civ classes, small seminars or special courses on Latin America or American Thought and Culture, he was devoted to his teaching. He read widely and after retirement was often seen at local coffee shops with a book in his hand ready for a friendly conversation. But politics was also a special interest, and he became involved in Oregon Democratic politics as he had been in Colorado. Specifically, he worked on the campaigns of Wayne Morse, Oregon US Senator and became active in the

local Democratic committee. Cliff ran for the Oregon Senate in 1970 losing to incumbent Dick Hoyt. Four years later he ran again, winning the seat that he would hold for 28 years until his retirement in 2003. And all this while continuing to teach in the OSU history department.

Cliff was a dedicated supporter of education and served on the Senate Education Committee for eight sessions including five as chair. In 1979 he was recognized as "Education Senator of the Year" by the Oregon Education Association and similarly honored as "Senator of the Year" by the Oregon Library Association in both 1991 and 1993. He, along with a Republican colleague, was instrumental in passing legislation mandating kindergartens in public schools as well as other important education issues. He received the Howard Cherry Award as the 2001 Outstanding Community College Advocate.

A member of additional committees, Cliff chaired the Senate Ways and Means in 1993 and subcommittees of Ways and Means from 1985-1991. He also chaired the Executive Appointment Committee for several sessions. Elected by his peers as President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 1981, Cliff also served as senate Democratic leader from 1995-1998.

He was recognized for his legislative leadership with awards from a number of civic, social service and governmental organizations including the Distinguished Alumni Award from Kansas Wesleyan University, the Distinguished Service Award from Western Oregon University, the Mark O. Hatfield Award in recognition of unselfish devotion to the call of public service and a strong conviction toward enhancing the quality of life in Oregon; the Jerry Bieberle Award in recognition of legislative leadership and dedication to fighting poverty in Oregon and the Frank Roberts Service Award from the Oregon State Senate in recognition of dedicated service to the people of Oregon. And, in 2002, on the eve of his retirement from elected office, Cliff was honored by the city of Corvallis, which declared December 16 to be "Cliff Trow Day."

Statewide, Cliff also was a member and chair of the State Library Board, the

Oregon Center for Public Policy, the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, and The Partners for Hunger Free Oregon. In Corvallis and Benton County he was active in Democratic politics, Cliff chaired the local central committee for a number of years in the 1960's and 1970's, was a member of the Benton County Corvallis Library Board and the Benton County Cultural Coalition and was a longtime member of the Corvallis Lions Club. A strong love of education and teaching led him to be one of the founders of the Academy for Life-long Learning when he served on the council and curriculum committees for many years. In addition, he taught or facilitated 48 classes over the years.

Shortly after arriving in Corvallis, Cliff met Jo Anne Johnson, a recent addition to the student affairs department at OSU and, in 1969 they were married. In 54 years of a wonderful and devoted marriage, they enjoyed music at OSU music performance and the Portland Opera; the OSU, Portland Center Stage and Oregon Shakespeare Festival theatres; Beaver athletics, especially women's and men's basketball, football, gymnastics; playing tennis, hiking in the mountains and at the beach; and especially, being great friends with a succession of Cardigan Welsh Corgis over the years. For over 20 years they started their day with a wonderful group of friends in the early morning exercise group at Fitness Over Fifty. And, over all, they supported each other, working on projects, running political campaigns, enjoying friendships with others, and celebrating all the ups and downs of life together.

Most of all, Cliff Trow was a true gentleman, but, as friends noted, of greater importance, a gentle man, a man of principle and moral strength, a man of integrity, and a dedicated public servant; a friendly face and a good listener with a keen interest in you as a person; a devoted and supportive husband, an excellent teacher, a committed champion for social justice, a mentor to those who worked with him, a model of a committed public servant and a genuine, kind, intelligent human being, a man who left the world a better place.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 AM on January 6, 2024, at the First Congregational Church, 4515 SW West Hills Road in Corvallis. Memorial

contributions can be made to The OSU Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333-1068, memo line to Trow Teaching Excellence Award; Partners for Hunger Free Oregon, PO Box 14250 Portland, OR, 97293; Oregon Center for Public Policy, 6420 SW Macadam, Suite 200, Portland, OR, 97239

Please leave your condolence messages for the family below.

Previous Events

Memorial celebration

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (PT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
4515 SW West Hills Road
Corvallis, OR 97333

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Dave has always spoken so highly of Cliff during the time the Trows have been customers of his. We always enjoyed sitting next to him at basketball games when we had my parent's seats. I know of Cliff from his time in the Senate, and I always felt he was a man of great ethics. He will be missed in the community.

Alicia and Dave Straub - January 05, 2024 at 01:41 AM

AS

“ Alicia Dave Straub lit a candle in memory of Clifford Trow



Alicia and Dave Straub - January 05, 2024 at 01:38 AM

RH

“ My special memory of uncle Cliff goes back to 1970. I was a senior in HS and having just graduated, Cliff invited me to drive from Colby, Kansas to Corvallis, Oregon to visit he and Jo Anne for a couple of weeks. Little did I know he had a plan for me. It was his first run for State office and Cliff "allowed" me to go door to door and campaign for him. The coolest time during the campaign was a county fair where we handed out chocolate covered frozen bananas on a very hot summer day in Corvallis. I admired Cliff immensely, he "earned" everything he ever accomplished in his very meaningful life with Jo Anne.

Robert K Herrington. www.PrairieFood.com

Robert K Herrington - January 02, 2024 at 03:16 PM

BG

“ *Becki Goslow lit a candle in memory of Clifford Trow*



Becki Goslow - December 27, 2023 at 11:00 PM

BG

“ *I have many special memories of Cliff, Senator Trow. Cliff was the most amazing role model not only for our community, but our the State of Oregon. Bill Goslow, rip, always invited Cliff into his classroom at Crescent Valley to visit with students about his experience in government. As for myself, I too had Cliff visit my classroom at Philomath Middle School, 8th grade to also share of his experiences in government.*

Many of my students benefitted from Cliff's free lunch program-- many would have gone hungry without this incredible program.

Cliff, I am so glad that I came to visit you at Willamette Springs--I will miss you greatly and all your wisdom.

JoAnne, thinking of you. I truly understand the magnitude of your loss.

Becki Goslow

Becki Goslow - December 27, 2023 at 11:00 PM

LK

Cliff was my Latin American history professor at Oregon State University. He was very thorough in his teaching. I was so lucky to have 2 (Tony VanViel) professor's in the Oregon legislature and teaching at OSU.

Laurie Kimmell - February 29, 2024 at 04:03 AM