

soon to be United States Senator, Hubert H. Humphrey. They worked tirelessly to ensure the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and committed themselves to the reorganization of Minnesota's Democratic party.

1944 marked the year that brought the Farmer-Labor and Democratic parties together to form the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) party in Minnesota. Together, Humphrey and Freeman built the DFL party—uniting farmers, unions, academicians, small-business owners, veterans and female activists through their common interests and goals for a better Minnesota.

With his political involvement and role as party secretary—Orville Freeman shaped the DFL and gave the party a face. His position gave him the opportunity to schedule events, control the party message and make connections in the community. He eventually made two bids for statewide office, first in 1950 for Attorney General—and then in 1952 for Governor. Although Freeman lost these two statewide races, at the suggestion of his good friend Humphrey, Freeman ran for governor again in 1954. Humphrey was running for re-election to the Senate that year—and wanted someone he knew he could work with in the governor's office.

Freeman's 1954 campaign for governor brought a new dynamic to political races in Minnesota. As the leader of the DFL, Freeman organized a statewide television campaign, and implemented a sample ballot that proved a very successful tool for the DFL that year, and years to follow. The sweeping DFL victory included electing Minnesota's first woman member of Congress, Coya Knutson, and winning all but one statewide DFL race. Freeman became the first DFL governor in Minnesota history, and was re-elected for two consecutive terms in 1956 and 1958.

In his three terms as governor—Freeman's commitment to education for all students was truly inspirational to me. He understood the strong desire for a quality education for all Minnesotans. He instituted the state-aid system for K-12 education that guaranteed a basic minimum education for all students, regardless of their school districts' wealth. In addition, he was a strong supporter of making college more accessible and affordable to students.

In 1960, Governor Freeman delivered the nomination speech in support of John F. Kennedy as the Democratic Party candidate for President of the United States and actively campaigned for Kennedy throughout Minnesota. Lutherans in Minnesota were apprehensive about electing the first Catholic President for fear the Vatican might influence him. This inspired Freeman to participate in a statewide television broadcast stating that religious prejudice had no place in Minnesota politics. While Freeman's dedication to Kennedy paid off—Kennedy won Minnesota by a 20,000 vote margin—Freeman unfortunately lost his re-election bid for governor by 20,000 votes.

The new President did not forget the strong support Governor Freeman had given him in Minnesota. Kennedy rewarded these efforts by nominating Freeman as Secretary of Agriculture, and Freeman continued his public service in Washington, DC.

As Secretary of Agriculture, he initiated a revolution in U.S. programs by launching the Food Stamp program, proposing the School Breakfast program, as well as the Women, In-

fants and Children (WIC) program. Additionally, he was a major proponent of food safety.

Secretary Freeman remembered those whose most basic needs were not being met by establishing a goal of eliminating hunger. Tying American farmers with the world market, he expanded the Foreign Agriculture Service and visited other countries to encourage opportunities for further U.S. trade abroad. Globally, he organized a massive program to ship U.S. grain to India that was instituted early enough to avert an impending famine.

Vice President Walter Mondale, his friend and mentor, may have put it best by saying this of Orville Freeman:

He was one of the great public men in modern Minnesota history and American history. He fits Tom Brokaw's definition of America's greatest generation—enlisting in the Marines, becoming an officer, being seriously wounded and almost dying, fighting back, becoming a lawyer, leading the new generation in the DFL that was so successful and regaining the governorship."

Orville L. Freeman, Minnesota's 29th Governor, died at the age of 84 on Thursday February 20, 2003 in Minneapolis, MN.

Minnesotans will miss the leadership and the dedication of Orville Freeman—his family will miss the wonderful, loving family man.

From the military to elected office to an appointed office, Orville Freeman dedicated his life to public service. He was a dynamic leader, an organizer and pioneer for his party. He was always a champion for the state of Minnesota and the United States and a champion for those that could not fight for themselves. It is from his example that we should learn and follow.

The Honorable Orville L. Freeman is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Jane, their two children Constance and Michael, and three grandchildren Katie, Beth and Matthew.

THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN VOLUNTEERISM

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend America's spirit of volunteerism and to highlight an organization that is helping the families of active-duty military personnel in my congressional district. Millions of Americans perform acts of kindness and compassion every day by helping their neighbors or by working through the many volunteer organizations that make our country great.

One such organization, Operation Brave Kids, is a Tampa Bay area charitable organization that provides financial assistance to the families of active-duty military personnel. The group provides resources that can make the difference between obtaining the necessities of daily life or going without. John Ghee, the founder of Operation Brave Kids, summarized the group's mission by stating that "we want the family and the soldier to know that the community is behind them."

Mr. Speaker, these troubled times require each of us to contribute in our own way to the cause of freedom and the care of our countrymen. I am proud to say that the spirit of caring and volunteerism is flourishing today in the land of liberty.

May God protect our troops and continue to watch over the United States of America.

CONCERNING TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES HELD AS PRISONER OF WAR BY IRAQI AUTHORITIES

SPEECH OF

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 118 concerning the treatment of members of the Armed Forces held as prisoners of war by Iraqi authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with a heavy heart. For the past two days, we've watched emotionally stirring television footage of POW's who are being detained by Iraqi forces. These soldiers were on missions to defend and protect Americans from the evils of weapons of mass destruction when they were captured. I am saddened when I see these soldiers being detained, but I am confident that their extensive training has given them the strength and courage of conviction to prevail even at the hands of an evil regime.

While we do not know when our POW's will return home, I do know that we as Members of Congress expect the Iraqi regime to treat all POW's humanely and in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Geneva Convention. Those who violate this doctrine, and use force or other methods of inhumane treatment will be held accountable for their actions, and will be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Brave soldiers, who give so much for our country, deserve no less.

My deepest and heartfelt sympathy goes out to the families of all of the POW's. We can only begin to imagine the pain and concern that the families of POW's must feel knowing that they are in the hands of the enemy halfway around the world.

It is our hope and prayer that American and coalition forces will be protected throughout this struggle as well as the Iraqi people.

These POW's and their families are making a tremendous sacrifice for our country—our country that soldiers are so proud to serve. Our country—where families await the safe and speedy return of loved ones.

My thoughts and prayers go out to all of our servicemen and women and to their families, who wish them a speedy and safe return.

ON THE DEATH OF SENATOR DANIEL PATRICK MOYNIHAN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the passing of a great American.

For decades, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan was a central figure in the nation's political and intellectual life. He was a committed, determined, and diligent leader who represented the citizens of New York in the U.S. Senate for four terms. We came to know him