

Family for the loss of their dear brother and with the House's consent, I would like to end my remarks with a recent article that was printed in The Buffalo News which commemorates the life of Joey Keane.

MAYOR OF SENECA STREET DIES AT 60—JOEY KEANE WAS "TRUE POLITICIAN" OF THE CLAN
(By Gene Warner)

Six years ago, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Bishop Henry J. Mansell attended a Labor Day Mass in South Buffalo, where Clinton seemed to be grabbing the most attention.

Joey Keane—of the prominent South Buffalo Keane clan—spotted Mansell, who was standing alone, drinking a cup of coffee and perhaps feeling a little ignored by the Clinton spotlight.

"Hello, Bishop, I'm Joey Keane," he said. "If you put that cup of coffee down, I'll take my picture with you."

That was Joey Keane, one of the best known of the famous Keanes, a man intimidated by no one, a South Buffalo man who always had a hug or a quip for everyone—whether it was the governor, the bishop or just a man or woman on the street.

Dubbed the "mayor of Seneca Street," Keane died Friday in the Mercy Hospital Skilled Nursing Facility, following an almost two-year battle with Alzheimer's and its complications. He was 60.

When he was born, in February 1947, family members were told that infants with Down syndrome had a life expectancy of about 21 years. Usually, they were taken to an institution for the rest of their lives.

His mother, Catherine, would hear none of that. So he spent the first 30 years of his life with his parents, Richard and Catherine, the next 30 rotating among about a dozen siblings and nieces, each for about 3 months at a time.

Among his 14 surviving siblings are a former Buffalo fire commissioner, a former assemblyman and a former deputy county executive. But everyone acknowledged who the true politician was in the family: Joseph Jeremiah Keane.

"He worked a crowd better than any of his politician brothers," said niece Kate Carr, one of 183 nieces, nephews and their children who called him "Uncle Joey."

"His whole life, he was a cause célèbre along Seneca Street," said brother James P. Keane, the former Common Council member and deputy county executive. "People just took to him."

Here's a testament to his popularity in South Buffalo. Ten years ago, following a newspaper story about his gala 50th birthday party, a childhood friend living in Australia sent him a letter addressed to "Joseph Keane, Somewhere in South Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y." The letter reached him.

Within his family, Joey Keane was the peacemaker of the 16 siblings. When they fought as kids, there was Joey in the middle of things, settling everybody down and leaving the participants to walk away with hugs and handshakes.

"He was kind of the glue that kept us together," said brother Cornelius J. "Neil" Keane, the former fire commissioner.

Since his death, South Buffalo has been filled with dozens of Joey Keane stories. Here are a few of them:

Years ago, Joey Keane had just moved from the roomy Orchard Park home of a niece, Pat Allman, to the more modest South Buffalo home of his sister Maureen Sullivan.

"Cup of coffee, Joe?" his sister asked him the first morning.

"What, no cappuccino?" Joey replied.

"You're back in South Buffalo, buddy," his sister answered.

Following The Buffalo News story 10 years ago, then-Mayor Anthony M. Masiello bought Joey Keane a cappuccino maker for his 50th birthday.

Sometime after his father's death, one sibling kidded that their mother could marry widowed Gov. Hugh L. Carey, who had 14 children. Together, they'd have more than two dozen.

Joey Keane apparently remembered that comment when he saw Carey at some South Buffalo function.

"Stay away from my mother," he told Carey, according to another brother, former Assemblyman Richard J. Keane.

Among other things, Joey Keane loved watching soap operas; impersonating everyone from John Wayne to Tom Jones; dressing up in Sabres, Bills or Bisons garb, while watching or listening to their games; dancing at weddings, often trying to snag the first dance with the new bride; needling his "big shot" brothers; watching the old Lawrence Welk TV show; and catching the garter belt at any wedding.

Surviving are seven sisters, Nancy Lafferty, Mary Alice O'Neil, Sally Trevean, Catherine Keane, Connie Smith, Margaret Ray and Maureen Sullivan; seven brothers, Richard J., Thomas J., Michael A., Cornelius J., Daniel J., James P. and Peter C. Another brother, Firefighter William T. Keane, was killed in 1978 while responding to a false alarm.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday in St. Teresa Catholic Church, 1974 Seneca St., after prayers at 9 in Thomas H. McCarthy Funeral Home, 1975 Seneca St.

IN HONOR OF EARTH DAY

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, today, in honor of Earth Day, I introduced a resolution that would support the only nationally-recognized day dedicated to recycling.

Every November since 1997, millions of Americans have become better informed about recycling and buying recycled products as a result of events held in honor of America Recycles Day. Last year, events were held in communities in every state. In my home state of Washington, 12 communities are planning events to commemorate this important day in 2007 in cooperation with counties, elementary schools, businesses and local troops.

Recycling creates 1.1 million U.S. jobs, \$236 billion in gross annual sales and \$37 billion in annual payrolls. Recycling also saves energy, prevents air and water pollution, reduces the need for new landfills and combustors, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, reduces the need for extraction of certain natural resources, and can stimulate the development of greener technologies.

Over the past 10 years, many new markets for recycled products have been created. For example, plastic containers can be remanufactured into other plastic containers, fleece, carpet, car parts, strapping, stuffing, bottles, pipe, lawn and garden products, injection molded products, and plastic lumber. Yet, as markets for recycled products have increased, recycling rates for certain recyclable household products, like plastic and aluminum containers, has decreased or stayed the same, and

curbsid pickup programs have decreased in communities.

There remains a significant opportunity to increase recycling in the United States and I believe that the activities of America Recycles Day provide one way to achieve this end. It is time for Congress to support this important day and effort. I urge my colleagues to take up this important resolution and pass this bill before America Recycles Day on November 15th.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT WALTER DINGMAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to Robert Walter Dingman, a decorated veteran of World War II who was wounded in combat 62 years ago today, on April 20, 1945. Private Dingman was seriously wounded as he crossed an open field and laid paralyzed until a heroic medic rescued him under enemy fire.

Bob Dingman had just turned 18 when he was drafted into the Army in 1944. After basic training at Camp Blanding, Florida, he was soon aboard a troop ship to Liverpool, England and then on to LeHarve, France, in early 1945. The French rail road took him and his fellow soldiers to Verviers, Belgium, where he was issued an M-1 rifle. He was soon taken across the Rhine River where he was assigned to Comp B of the 83rd Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 3rd Armored Division.

As a young soldier with a strong faith in God, Private Dingman was determined he would not hate his enemy and had occasions to show kindness toward captives, while carrying out his duties. Since those dark days 62 years ago, Bob Dingman has led a successful, active, inspiring and selfless life. After graduating from Houghton College in New York state, he began his career here in Washington as an employee of the U.S. Navy. He later went into the executive recruiting business and formed his own executive recruiting firm in California in 1978. He rose professionally and is recognized as one of the nation's top executive recruiters.

During his recruiting career, he repeatedly went out of his way to assist faith-based organizations in their searches for competent leadership, in addition to his broad array of commercial clients. Over the years he led the search projects for leaders of such organizations as World Vision International, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Young Life, numerous Christian Colleges, and many other church-related organizations. He also gave generously of his time and abilities by serving on the national boards of such organizations as the Salvation Army and Mission Aviation Fellowship and the local boards of Hospice and Whitworth College.

As a disabled veteran of World War II, he was awarded a 50 percent disability in 1951. As one who has experienced the physical and emotional pain of rehabilitation, Mr. Dingman is currently turning his attention to finding ways to help newly disabled veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.