

CRESSY LEAVES A GREAT
IMPRINT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth is an extremely valuable institution. It is an excellent educational facility, and it is a great example of a public institution of higher education that not only seeks to provide a first rate education to its students, but cooperates indeed often takes a leadership role—in regional economic development.

One of the reasons this University has been such a valued part of Southeastern Massachusetts in recent years is the leadership of its Chancellor, Peter Cressy. On behalf of my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) and myself, I want to insert here in the RECORD the editorial from the New Bedford Standard Times, on Wednesday, July 14, which pays a well deserved tribute to the high quality leadership Peter Cressy provided.

In several areas of great importance to Southeastern Massachusetts economically, particularly including textiles and fishing, Peter Cressy has done everything possible to make sure that the University provided significant help to the broader community, while at the same time fully maintaining the educational mission that is the primary justification of a college.

At a time when some question the value of publicly funded enterprises, Peter Cressy's leadership at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth gave us an excellent example of how tax dollars can be put to excellent use for the broadest possible public benefit.

My colleague (Mr. MCGOVERN) and I will miss his leadership, his energy, and his enthusiasm at the head of this extremely important institution. And we ask that the editorial from the New Bedford Standard Times be printed here as one example of how excellent leadership can help us get the best of our public efforts.

CRESSY LEAVES A GREAT IMPRINT

When Dr. Peter H. Cressy jumped from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Bourne after two years to take over at the helm of UMass Dartmouth, there were those who suggested that this energetic and effective leader might not stay more than two or three years. I wasn't his style.

Dr. (former Rear Adm.) Cressy's career was marked by one success after another, though his Navy days and then on his own. He made his mark and moved on. He had turned Mass. Maritime around when some thought that to be impossible; he then plunged into his UMass Dartmouth job with energy and enthusiasm that were rarely witnessed before. Sometimes controversial but always self-assured and outgoing, Dr. Cressy set about to remake the university and to multiply its ties to the surrounding community.

He stayed for six years, putting the university on the national map, bringing it up to full membership in the UMass system, vastly improving its fund raising, and as he said in his unexpected resignation announcement on Monday, established the marine science and technology program, improved the budget

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

process, improved admissions and retention, increased research, added a Ph.D. program, established centers for business and so on.

Dr. Cressy's methods were not to everyone's taste; that is not uncommon for a bright, visionary individual. But there is no doubt that SouthCoast Massachusetts would be far behind where it is today without his leadership and his initiatives. We wish him the best in his new career in Washington, D.C., as president and CEO of the Distilleries Council of the United States, and we hope to see him follow through on his promise to eventually retire to our part of the world. We would be happy to put him back to work.

IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM CRAVEN
(1921-1999)

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of William A. "Bill" Craven: a husband and father, a public servant, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, and a leading citizen of San Diego County, California, who has passed away.

Bill Craven was a courageous political leader who represented the citizens of San Diego County for more than a quarter century. Many of us will always remember Bill as a strong leader with a tremendous commitment to public service. During his storied life he served as a U.S. Marine, San Diego County Supervisor, California State Assemblyman, Oceanside Planning Commissioner, the City Manager for San Marcos and the Chief Assistant to a County Supervisor. However, it is his many accomplishments as a California State Senator that will ensure his legacy. The crown jewel of those accomplishments was the successful establishment of California State University San Marcos.

I submit for the RECORD a column from the San Diego Union Tribune and both an article and editorial from the North County Times, which further highlight the life of this great man.

To be loved by friends and admired by opponents and to serve the people is the goal of all great leaders; it is a goal that Bill admirably attained. Speaking for all the people of California's 51st Congressional District, my heart goes out to Bill's wife, Mimi, and his entire family upon their loss. I am honored to have been Bill's friend.

Let the permanent RECORD of the Congress of the United States show that Bill Craven was a tireless advocate for his constituents, and a friend of America.

[From the San Diego Union Tribune, July 13, 1999]

WILLIAM A. CRAVEN (1921-1999)—CAL STATE
SAN MARCOS IS A LASTING LEGACY

(By Gerry Braun and Jeff McDonald)

William A. "Bill" Craven, the courtly North County legislator who was known for his candor and independence and for delivering a state university to the heart of his district, is dead at 78.

Craven, a heavy smoker for much of his life, suffered from congestive heart failure and complications of diabetes, a family

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member said. He died Sunday morning at the Villas de Carlsbad Health Center.

An old-school politician equipped with charm and a long memory for names and local problems, Craven represented the North County for a quarter of a century, from his election to the Board of Supervisors until term limits and failing health forced him from the state Senate last year.

He was an Oceanside planning commissioner, the city manager of San Marcos and a county supervisor's chief assistant before being elected a supervisor in his own right in 1970. The lifelong Republican moved up to the state Assembly in 1973, and then to the state Senate in 1978, without losing a race or facing serious competition.

In the Legislature, colleagues looked to the longtime Oceanside resident for his expertise in such unglamorous policy arenas as local government funding and mobile-home park regulation. Yet he also wielded considerable clout through his longtime seat on the powerful Senate Rules Committee and his ability to offset his party's minority status by cultivating personal relationships with his colleagues.

In his latter years, Craven was one of a dwindling species in Sacramento—a moderate Republican who prided himself on his bipartisanship and his friendships with Democratic leaders such as Willie Brown, Leo McCarthy, Bill Lockyer and David Roberti, the latter a longtime Senate president pro tempore whom Craven affectionately called "Boss."

Craven crossed party lines without apology, and many times delivered the final vote needed to send Democratic bills to the governor.

"Before government became the enemy, in the perspective of some, Bill was one who wanted government to work and to solve problems," said Lockyer, who served with Craven in both houses of the Legislature and is now California's attorney general. "He was a man with a devotion to public service and a wonderful, wonderful, giant heart."

Craven's district underwent explosive growth during his career—he represented nearly 1 million people in parts of three counties in the late 1980s—and he battled to steer state money to its water systems, parks, highways and courtrooms, and to sustain the growth with tax credits for first-time home buyers.

PRIDE IN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

He was proud of winning extra funding for Torrey Pines State Reserve; supporting anti-pollution legislation that targeted aerosol cans and vapor-recovery systems on gas pumps; increasing the size of Butterfield Park in San Pasqual; and raising from five to seven the number of judges at the Vista courthouse.

But the crown jewel of his legislative career was the creation of Cal State San Marcos, the North County public university that Craven started lobbying for even before he was elected to the Assembly in 1973. The university was finally christened in 1990, and the grand opening capped one of the longest and most ardent drives of Craven's years in Sacramento.

In gratitude, one of the main buildings of the growing San Marcos campus was named Craven Hall. A bust of the longtime legislator rests in front and a nearby thoroughfare was named in his honor.

"He had the vision for that university for as long as I've known him, which goes way back, I think 30 years ago," said banker Jim Rady, a former Escondido mayor.

"Throughout his career he put the well-being of North County ahead of politics. He