

Heen served in the Hawaii legislature as a Representative until 1964 and was elected to the State Senate in 1966.

The "Democratic Revolution of 1954" was more than a headline or a slogan, it accurately conveyed the significant legislative agenda the new majority was committed to enact to affect fundamental changes to improve the social and economic character of the islands. Land reform, anti-trust, "Green Belt" land use, collective bargaining, and workers' compensation were to become the battle zones that would change the face of politics, legislation and the administration of justice across Hawaii. Walter Heen was on the front lines of those struggles. His cause, together with those whom he served, was to level the playing field of social and economic opportunities for all, regardless of race, class or religion.

Walter Heen served as a member of the Honolulu City Council from 1969 to 1972, including his selection as Council Chair in 1969-70. He left elective office in 1972 accepting an appointment to the State District Court, and then State Circuit Court in 1974-78.

Judge Heen's star continued to rise with his appointment as U.S. Attorney, District of Hawaii for 1978-80, and as U.S. District Court Judge, District of Hawaii in 1981. He retired from a distinguished judicial career in 1994 after 12 years as Associate Judge of the State Intermediate Court of Appeals. During that period, Heen authored several opinions on important Hawaiian issues and had occasion to sit and add his voice to the deliberation of the State Supreme Court.

Always an active contributor to community affairs, Walter Heen was a founding member of the renaissance Democratic Party revolution beginning in 1950. It was a significant political movement that focused on changing the traditional unequal and unfair distribution of opportunities available to Hawaii's minority communities. Judge Heen carried this passion for leveling the playing field throughout his career of public service. More recently, Heen added his hand to exposing improper management and unethical practices at the Bishop Estate, a charitable trust charged with the responsibility of providing children of Hawaiian ancestry with educational opportunities and achievement. While controversial, his joint authorship of the milestone piece entitled "Broken Trust", successfully led to court ordered reviews of trust operations, and the ultimate improvement and accountability of the charitable trust.

Judge Heen's volunteer activities are broad and diverse, spreading across Hawaii's community concerns. As early as 1962, Walter was singled out as the Honolulu Junior Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Young Man of the Year." Virtually at the same time, he was Chair of the State Bar Association Eth-

ics Committee 1961-63, President of the University of Hawaii Alumni Association, and President of the Honolulu Hawaiian Civic Club. As a member of its Founding Board of Directors, Heen launched the Big Brothers of Hawaii program that has made an enormous contribution to supporting and mentoring thousands of youth in Hawaii.

Upon his retirement from the bench, Walter Heen has continued his public service. He served as a Director of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association, Advisor to the Native Hawaiian Advisory Council, co-counsel for Hawaiian water rights in the Waiahole Ditch dispute, member of the Public Access Shoreline Study Group, 1997-1998, and member of the Governor's Economic Revitalization Task Force. Currently, Heen is the acting Executive Director of the Office of Mauna Kea Management, lending a "community voice" and oversight to the maintenance and development of the University of Hawaii's astronomical facilities at Mauna Kea's summit.

In 1996, Walter Heen was tapped to serve as the Chairman of the Hawaii Democratic Party. It was a turbulent time for a political party that has dominated Hawaii's political scene for more than 50 years. Heen led us forward in a hotly contested gubernatorial election in 1998 and then a host of targeted races in our State Legislature's lower house in 2000. Resources were scarce, and some would say that so were our passions and drive. Walter Heen has done a fine job under trying circumstances. He was a team player and a leader. He was the point, and the man in the background.

I believe the greatest legacy Walter Heen leaves Hawaii's Democratic Party is a growing, committed group of young Democrats, impatient and anxious to make improvements and changes, to make Hawaii the best place to raise a family, excel in a career, and enjoy the most beautiful environment and lifestyle in the world. He has worked diligently to establish and empower a new army of passionate young people to carry the Democratic torch forward.

Judge Walter Heen, and his family leaders before him, have played a pivotal role in helping to shape the Hawaii of today. It is leaders like Heen who have helped to chart a collective course for Hawaii's future, one that has allowed our island to take full advantage of high technology, while not forsaking our spirit of aloha.

I rise today to commend my dear friend, Walter Meheula Heen, for his lifetime of service.●

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MEIDINGER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the many contributions and services of Susan Meidinger of Aberdeen, SD. Susan is being honored this week as South Dakota's

Small Business Advocate of the Year, an honor for which she is very deserving.

Susan is a valuable asset to her community. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the South Dakota Society of CPAs and the Northeast Chapter of CPAs.

While raising three children, she took on the challenge of starting her own accounting firm. Through her commitment and dedication to her clients, the firm flourished. Susan measures her achievements not necessarily in the success of her business, but moreover, by the measure of how she can help her fellow businesses and clients achieve their own personal successes. It is not surprising, therefore, that her services are sought after.

Despite the demands of balancing the work of raising a family and owning a business, Susan is an active participant in her community. By regularly putting her skills and talents to work on behalf of local organizations, she strengthens local establishments and helps to promote growth and opportunity in the area.

Susan's work with the Small Business Development Center is an excellent example of why she is being honored for her work on behalf of Small Businesses. By volunteering her time and expertise, she helps entrepreneurs to achieve their aspirations and avoid cumbersome pitfalls or missteps in their accounting practices. She offers advice, counseling, and mentorship that enhances opportunities for business growth and job creation which has had a positive impact on many families.

It is with great appreciation that I join with the community, the businesses, the customers, and those who know Susan Meidinger, to congratulate Susan for being honored as a Small Business Advocate of the Year. I wish Susan enduring good fortune and prosperity in the continued pursuit of excellence.●

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT O. ANDERSON

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Institute of the North recently held a ceremony to honor Robert O. Anderson and his lifetime of achievements. I, too, would like to add my appreciation for his many contributions to our Nation. Robert O. has earned renown as a petroleum executive, an environmentalist, a diplomat, a rancher, and a community leader. He began his career in the oil industry shortly after he graduated from the University of Chicago in 1939. In 1941, he and his family moved to my home State of New Mexico after he acquired an interest in a small oil refinery in Artesia. Within six months, he had more than doubled the production of the refinery. Though his