

# Letter: Cliff Trow made a positive difference

- Jan 4, 2024



The late Oregon Gov. Tom McCall once said, “Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are individuals who say, ‘This is my community, and it’s my responsibility to make it better.’”

I am just one of many Linn and Benton county residents who will always regard Cliff Trow, who passed away on Oct. 31, as a true hero, because few individuals devoted more time and effort to make this area and the state better than Cliff Trow did.

I first met Cliff four decades ago and had the privilege of serving in the Oregon State Senate with him for 20 years. Representing adjoining state senate districts, we had the opportunity to work together on a large number of issues. While we didn’t always agree, I can testify that Cliff was a legislator of high intelligence, and a man of principle, integrity and moral strength.

Cliff and I also both served on the Ways and Means Budget Committee, where he was a tireless and eloquent advocate for adequate funding for quality education and for services to the disabled.

Cliff was also blessed with a wonderful marriage to Jo Anne, who made history herself as the first female vice president in the history of Oregon State University.

As we mourn Cliff's passing, let us take solace in the fact that he made a positive difference for the many OSU students he taught and mentored, for his community, and for the state of Oregon.

**Mae Yih**, Oregon state senator, retired

Albany