



THE HENRY JACKSON SOCIETY

Senator Henry M. Jackson

Remembering 'Scoop' on the
100th anniversary of his birth.



Scoop Jackson at 100



Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson. (*Herald file*)

By Jonathan S. Tobin

Freedom25, a group that seeks to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington for Soviet Jewry, reminds us that today is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Senator Henry Jackson, the intrepid Democratic senator from Washington State who was a bulwark of the fight for freedom against Communism.

Jackson is worth remembering not just because of his hard work for the just cause of freedom for Soviet Jewry and his dogged opposition to appeasement of the Soviet Union. His career embodied a rare brand of patriotism as well as insight into international affairs. He was also the best example of a political breed that is now all but extinct: a liberal on domestic issues who was an ardent hawk on foreign affairs. It is on the shoulders of men like Jackson that a genuine bipartisan consensus on defense issues, opposition to Soviet tyranny and support for the State of Israel was built. Though he passed away in 1983, all these years later he is still deeply missed by his country.

The expression "Scoop Jackson Democrat" is a term that is now falling out of use because there are few liberals left who understand that while Americans can afford to differ on domestic policy and the economy, we must present a united front against foes of liberty. Though once his sort of politician was commonplace in an era when both major parties were "big tents," nowadays it is inconceivable that a Democrat who shared Jackson's worldview could survive a primary. This principle was conclusively proven when Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman lost the Democratic nomination for the Senate the last time he ran for re-election in 2006 because of his support for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lieberman, who is retiring from the Senate this year largely because another independent run would be unlikely to succeed, is aptly termed the last such "Scoop Jackson Democrat."

Though nowadays many claim credit for securing the freedom of Soviet Jewry, in the early days of the movement, support from major political figures was by no means automatic. But Jackson, whose opposition to Soviet imperialism was a matter of principle, not political convenience, was steadfast in his advocacy

"Today, we hear a great deal about the need for bipartisanship, a line of argument that is generally a cover for getting officials to throw their principles overboard in order to accommodate the majority."

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Henry M. Jackson with President John F. Kennedy. (*Herald File*)

for Moscow's captives. Undeterred by the fashionable support for détente with the Soviet Union championed by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Jackson became a thorn in the side of both the Nixon and Ford administrations as well as of the Kremlin. His sponsorship of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment linking Soviet trading rights to the right of Jews to emigrate became an impassable roadblock to those who wished to prioritize commerce with the evil empire over freedom. Despite Kissinger's efforts to outmaneuver him, Jackson prevailed, and his signature legislation became the lever by which Soviet policy was undermined and eventually overthrown.

Today, we hear a great deal about the need for bipartisanship, a line of argument that is generally a cover for getting officials to throw their principles overboard in order to accommodate the majority. Jackson's brand of bipartisanship was of a different

variety. It was forged in a belief that the defense of freedom at home and abroad was a higher calling than the appeal of parties or presidents. Without him, the consensus in support of Israel's fight for survival as well as opposition to Soviet tyranny would have been diminished if not impossible.

Though Jackson's brand of Democrat may no longer be the flavor of month, his example still inspires new generations of thinkers and activists who uphold the ideas he held dear. It is no accident that when a British group dedicated to those principles was formed, it took his name. Henry Jackson's 100th birthday is an occasion for us to celebrate the victories he won on behalf of Soviet Jewry and American ideas, but it should also be a moment for us to rededicate ourselves to the brand of patriotism for which he is the exemplar. May his memory be for a blessing.

Three pivotal moments in Scoop Jackson's life



Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson and Lyndon Johnson in the early 1960s. Had John F. Kennedy chosen Jackson as his running mate instead of Johnson, he might have lost the 1960 election. (Courtesy of The Henry M. Jackson Foundation)

“Sen. Jackson's accomplishments would have been entirely different, but for these three turning points in his career, and so would our commemoration of his life on his 100th birthday.”

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The Herald Everett, Washington

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Dr. Thomas M. Gaskin, Special to The Herald

Sen. Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson without doubt is the most famous native-born son of Everett. He also is the most important Washingtonian politician of the 20th century, serving almost 43 years in Congress as a member of the House and Senate.

A presidential hopeful in 1972 and 1976, Jackson was admired by all segments of the political spectrum. He was credited by conservatives with helping topple communism in the Soviet Union as a tireless supporter of a strong national defense, and lauded by liberals for authoring the National Environmental Policy Act. He never lost a congressional election, and in 1970, when his critics were most caustic in opposition for his support of the war in Vietnam, an astounding 82 percent of the voters re-elected Jackson to the Senate.

The 100th anniversary of Jackson's birthday provides an opportunity to commemorate his accomplishments. But as with any person, key turning points made a huge difference in how his life turned out. Three examples detail how Jackson's career might have been significantly different than how we celebrate it today.

One of these decisive moments occurred early in his career. Elected as Snohomish County Prosecutor in 1938, at age 26, Jackson led a vigorous campaign against illegal alcohol sales, prostitution and pinball machines that made cash payoffs. Particularly, the crackdown on pinball machines created animosity toward Jackson. The city of Everett earned \$10,000 annually in license fees for the machines and tavern and restaurant owners could earn up to \$50 per day -- nearly \$800 in today's dollars -- on one machine. Jackson insisted that the machines be removed from the county because they constituted gambling devices.

Despite the resistance, the machines were removed.

A month later, in August 1939, Jackson was recommended by the Snohomish County Bar Association to Gov. Clarence Martin as one of three candidates to fill a vacancy as a Superior Court judge. Jackson traveled to Olympia to lobby for the appointment.

While in the governor's office, Martin phoned Jack Sylvester, Speaker of the House, and let Jackson listen in on the conversation.

Sylvester recommended one of the other candidates.

For six months, Jackson refused to talk to Sylvester. But many years later reminiscing about the incident, Sylvester reminded Jackson how important that decision was: "Scoop, you wouldn't be in the Senate. You'd be back in Snohomish County with a black robe around you giving decisions on a bunch of drunks."

First elected to Congress in 1940, Jackson briefly served in the Army in late 1943 until President Franklin Roosevelt ordered congressmen back to Washington.

Two years later, he traveled to Europe as a U.S. conference delegate. He became severely ill in Oslo, Norway, with a temperature of 105, and desperately needed antibiotic medication. Penicillin had been mass-produced during World War II, but none was available in Norway. Jackson in his weakened state was able to contact a distant cousin, Maj. Leslie Johnson, who was stationed in Germany. Johnson was nearly court-martialed for commandeering a plane to transport penicillin to Oslo, but he saved Jackson's life.

The third key moment in Jackson's career was John F. Kennedy's decision to select Sen. Lyndon Johnson to be his running mate in the 1960 presidential election. Jackson wanted that nomination. John Kennedy's statement that Jackson was the frontrunner, and Robert Kennedy's comment, "Jackson is my personal choice for the vice presidency, and my brother has the highest regard for Jackson" seemed to cement Jackson's selection.

On Thursday, July 14, 1960, Jackson had a 15-minute conversation with John Kennedy. Kennedy told Jackson he'd offered the nomination to Lyndon

Johnson, who had not yet given his answer. Jackson returned to his hotel to wait to hear if it was Johnson or him. The phone rang. A Kennedy aide called saying no decision had been made. The minutes drifted by. The phone rang again. A boy with the wrong number was trying to contact his girlfriend. Fifteen minutes later a Kennedy staffer called, and indicated the decision would be made shortly. And then, finally, the call from John Kennedy himself. Johnson would be the candidate.

Had Jackson been on the Democratic ticket, he and Kennedy might have lost that 1960 presidential race to Richard Nixon and Henry Cabot Lodge.

The election was razor close, and Kennedy needed Johnson's Southern supporters. Despite Jackson's later presidential attempts in 1972 and 1976, 1960 might have been his closest chance for the presidency.

Jackson's desire for a judgeship in 1939 would have redirected his career. His illness in 1945 almost ended his life. And his thwarted goal of being on 1960 vice-presidential candidate for the Democratic Party perhaps saved Jackson from being a defeated candidate, for the first time in his life.

Or, if elected as Kennedy's vice president, Jackson might have experienced Johnson's fate: becoming a president mired in the Vietnam War.

Sen. Jackson's accomplishments would have been entirely different, but for these three turning points in his career, and so would our commemoration of his life on his 100th birthday.

Dr. Thomas M. Gaskin is retiring in June after 37 years as a history instructor at Everett Community College. He produced the documentary, "One of Ours: Young Scoop Jackson."

Family, friends remember Scoop Jackson



Sen. Henry M. Jackson's daughter, Anna Marie Laurence and his son, Peter Jackson (right), along with Foundation President John Hempelmann (partially obscured) enjoy a light moment while presenting a Jackson bust to EvCC President, Dr. David Beyer Thursday during the rededication ceremony at the newly renovated Jackson Center at Everett Community College. *(Dan Bates / The Herald)*

“Will credited Jackson with helping the country ‘keep its nerve’ in the long fight against the spread of totalitarianism.”

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By Jerry Cornfield, Herald Writer

EVERETT -- To the nation, Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson spent 43 years in Congress fighting against communism and preserving America's wilderness areas.

To Anna Marie Laurence, the man known as Scoop was a protective dad who interrogated her dates and enjoyed strawberry shortcake with a generous helping of whipped cream at the Evergreen State Fair.

Thursday, on what would have been her father's 100th birthday, Laurence shared a trove of personal stories about him and their relationship during a centennial celebration at the Edward D. Hansen Conference Center in Comcast Arena.

"I celebrated my first birthday in the Senate dining room," she said as she began a journey through her life for the crowd of 150 people.

There was a kindergarten class trip to the White House, private dinners with President Jimmy Carter and his family and those teenage boys.

"He screened all my dates, sometimes for 30 minutes," she said.

When he ran for president in 1972 and again in 1976, it meant an endless schedule of posing for pictures, shaking hands and riding in parades.

"It was enough to make anyone tired except my father, who had endless energy," she said.

Henry Martin Jackson, who was born May 31, 1912, in the Oakes Avenue home of his parents, never slowed once he entered the world of politics at age 26 with his election as Snohomish County prosecutor.

In 1940, at age 28, he won a seat in the U.S. House. After a dozen years there, he captured a seat in the Senate and was serving his sixth term at the time of his death in 1983.

At three events Thursday, Laurence and her brother, Peter Jackson, along with family friends and a few politicians took the measure of a man who rose to become one of the most influential members of Congress and recognized senators around the globe. Their mother, Helen Jackson, who has been battling Alzheimer's disease, did not attend the events.

"It is nearly impossible to capture all that he's done," U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said at the centennial. "For 71 years on this planet Scoop touched so many lives. No doubt 100 years from now Scoop Jackson's legacy will be remembered."

There was a private event at the Everett Naval Station followed by a public gathering at Everett Community College and then the centennial celebration where a recurring theme was how much Jackson loved his hometown.

"This community made all the difference to him," said his son, Peter.

"It's as much a celebration of Scoop's birthday as it is a celebration of this community."

At the centennial, Scandinavian accordionist Stan Boreson, an icon himself, told of a friendship that blossomed on the presidential campaign trail in 1972. He said Jackson asked him to be his "opening man," which, he learned, meant warming up the audience before the candidate took the stage.

"It was quite an experience," Boreson said.

Nationally known political figures took part Thursday as well.

U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who served with Jackson, and journalist George Will, who covered the senator's career and 1976 presidential campaign, sent separate video messages.

McCain called Jackson a "towering figure in the history of American politics" and a model of what a statesman should be.

Will credited Jackson with helping the country "keep its nerve" in the long fight against the spread of totalitarianism.

For him, the monuments to Jackson "are what you don't see" such as the Soviet Union and the Iron Curtain.



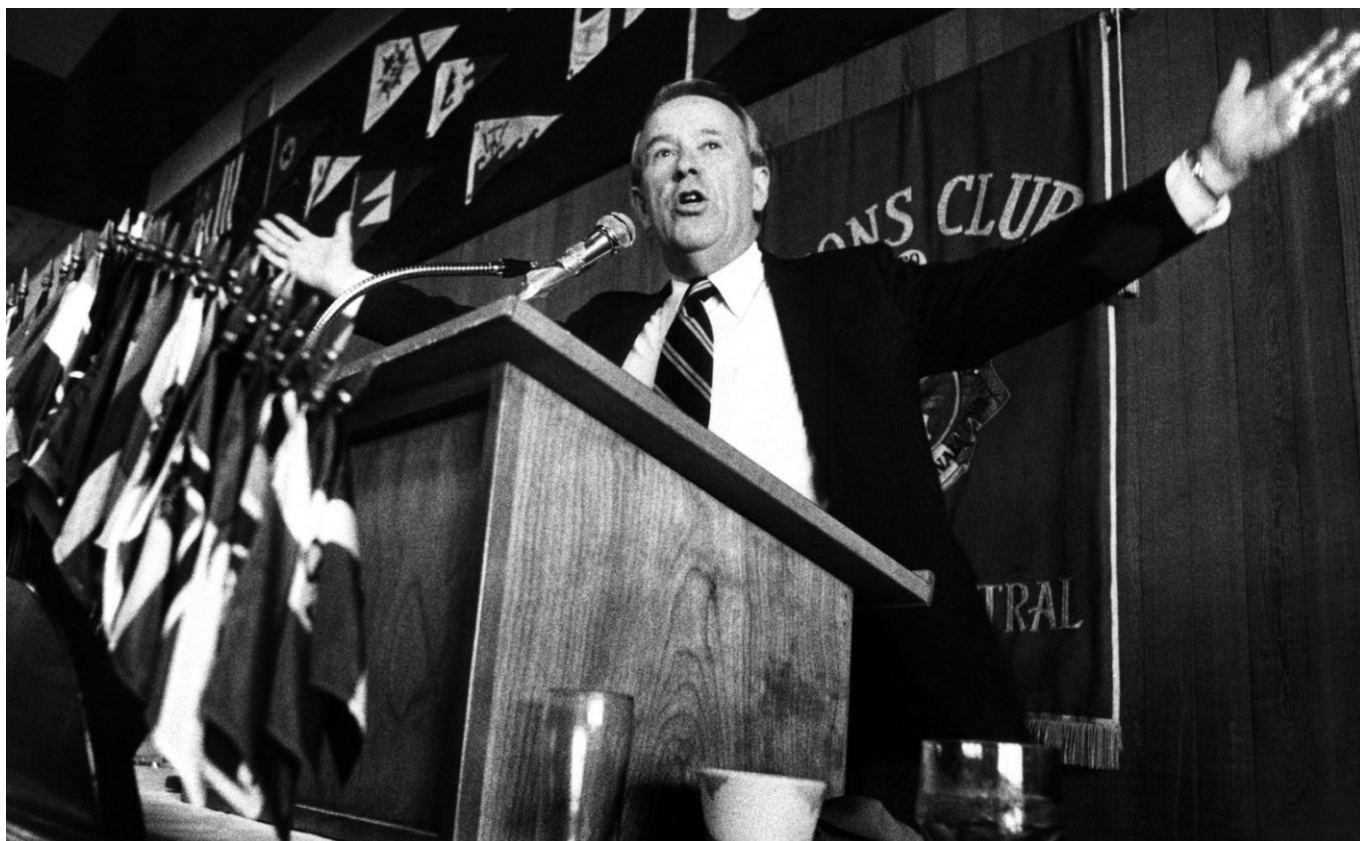
"Scoop" Jackson visits Russian Jews (refuseniks, who benefited from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in 1975) during a visit to Israel in the late 1970s. (Courtesy of The Henry M. Jackson Foundation)

For students of Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek, attending the centennial filled in a lot of blanks about the school's namesake.

"Before, all I knew was his name was Scoop. I've learned he had a huge impact on the entire United States," junior Rahma Keene said afterward. "It gives you a connection that wasn't there before."

Sam Hickman, also a junior, nodded in agreement. He said he's been studying the Cold War in his history class and what he heard about Jackson's stand against the Soviet Union gave him a better context for that period.

"I didn't know anything about him," he said. "Now, it gives you a sense of pride to this high school."



Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson speaks at a Lions Club luncheon in October 1980. (Michael O'Leary / Herald File)

HeraldNet

All his life, Scoop Jackson stayed true to his roots

"Yet even as his stature grew and his ambitions rose, he remained tethered to Everett and connected to its people. They became his priority after he won re-election in 1982."

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By Jerry Cornfield, Herald Writer

There's no getting around it: Henry Jackson loved his hometown of Everett. And Everett loves its hometown hero.

The political superpower known as Scoop left huge footprints in the community, and, today, 100 years after Jackson's birth and nearly 29 years since his death, a number of personal friends and aging generations of political figures are intent on preserving the legend and legacy of Everett's most famous native son.

"People understand what his leadership meant," Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson said. "We don't want to forget Scoop Jackson in our community."

Everett is where the memories begin and end for Henry Martin "Scoop" Jackson, the son of Norwegian immigrants who became one of the nation's elite leaders -- and nearly president -- before his unexpected death in 1983.

"He was the strongest political figure in the history of the

state," said retiring U.S. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., who emulated Jackson throughout his own lengthy career. Yet Jackson didn't flex his political muscle in Everett, the town in which he was born, raised and always kept a home.

"When he was home, he was just one of the neighbors. He was clearly one of us," Stephanson said. "He was so humble. He never forgot where he came from."

* * *

Henry Martin Jackson was born May 31, 1912, in the Oakes Street home of his parents, Peter and Marine Jackson. He was the fifth and last of the Jackson children. He had three sisters, Gertrude, Agnes and Marie, and one brother, Arthur.

Accounts of Jackson's childhood adventures have been passed down through the years by his friends, neighbors and their children. And in 1989, three Everett Community College faculty members interviewed several of them and cobbled together their tales into a 38-minute video entitled "One of Our Own." It focuses on Jackson's youth and early years as a lawyer, prosecutor and politician.

"We didn't know anything about him. Our goal was to try to determine what sort of individual he really was," said Tom Gaskin, a professor of history.

The trio learned the young Henry Jackson didn't change much through the years: He was moral and honest, a sober Norwegian who did not fall prey to sinful indulgences.

"The worst thing the guy did was to put a penny on the railroad tracks to see what happens" when a train ran over it, Gaskin said.

When they wrapped up interviews, he and videographer Lloyd Weller, a digital photography instructor, realized the permanence of the imprint Jackson left on people's lives.

"Everybody talked about him like he was right there," Weller said. "This town mattered to him. People continually remarked how integrated he was in the community. I don't think he ever lost that connection."

* * *

Washingtonians had a taste of Everett's politics and politicians before Jackson's emergence as a national figure.

In 1940, voters elected Democratic U.S. Rep. Monrad Wallgren of Everett into the Senate. On the same ballot, Jackson captured Wallgren's seat in the 2nd Congressional District.

Four years later, Wallgren was elected governor, the second Everett resident to hold that job.

Jackson's career served to anchor the blue-collar city's presence on the state's political map while introducing Everett to the nation and its civic leaders to members of Congress. Jackson wouldn't hesitate to invite the sitting mayor of Everett into the Senate dining room to meet other senators.

As a young man, Gary Baker worked at Jackson's side in the 1982 campaign, serving as his driver and assistant. He recalled how the proud Norwegian sometimes used his hometown roots to deflate the tone of questions from reporters.

"When he'd get some high-browed question, he'd say, 'I'm just a country boy from Everett, Washington,'" said Baker of Lake Stevens, now an attorney and board member for the Henry M. Jackson Foundation.

* * *

Jackson vaulted from the Snohomish County prosecutor's office to Congress in 1941 and served until his death in 1983.

Over the course of 43 years -- 12 in the House of Representatives and 31 in the Senate -- Jackson became one of the most influential figures walking the corridors of power in the nation's capital.

Yet even as his stature grew and his ambitions rose, he remained tethered to Everett and connected to its people. They became his priority after he won re-election in 1982.

"Scoop told me this story," began Ron Dotzauer of Snohomish, a political consultant who served as Jackson's last state director. "He said, 'I spent most of my career on defense issues, international relations and other matters. What I want to do in my last term is help my hometown grow and develop economically.' He really wanted to focus on Everett and Snohomish County."

One of the ways he did this was to bring people to Everett with the means to do something.

On Dec. 31, 1982, a financier and confidant of Jackson's came to town and toured the city.

"Scoop called me and he asked me to meet with leaders of the community because he said Everett

had some economic trouble and he wanted to help," said Albert Ratner of Forest City Enterprises Inc. of Cleveland, Ohio.

Ratner said he pressed them for "the one thing that was most meaningful to have," and he recalled Mayor Bill Moore saying it would be to bring the U.S. Navy to Everett.

"I looked to Scoop and said, 'You can do it,' " said Ratner, whose firm would later invest by building Navy housing at Constitution Park in Lake Stevens.

* * *

Jackson never got to enjoy one of his greatest local successes, Naval Station Everett, because the first spade of dirt was turned a couple of years after his death.

He did get the ball rolling and kept it moving.

The U.S. Navy had been seeking a Puget Sound homeport for one of its battle groups. Everett was in the running, and Navy Secretary John Lehman, whom Jackson helped get confirmed in a controversial Senate vote, would make the decision. One morning in August 1982, Dicks got a call from Jackson.

"He says, 'I'm going to have a press conference with Lehman in my office in Seattle and I want you there.' Whatever Scoop wanted, we did it," he said.

Jackson told him it was about bringing a carrier task force to Everett.

"I said, 'Senator, I thought we called them battle groups? Scoop said, 'It's an election year and we don't want to scare anybody,' " Dicks recounted.

Everett was formally selected to be a homeport in 1984 with initial ground-breaking in 1987 and dedication in 1994.

"It's there because of Scoop Jackson," Dotzauer said.

* * *

The Boeing Co. didn't operate in Everett when Jackson entered the U.S. Senate in 1953.

Until the 1958 release of its first commercial

plane, the aerospace giant focused on producing what the military needed at facilities in King County. It was very much a Cold War company, and Jackson was very much a Cold War warrior who could be counted on to support ample federal spending on defense.

Boeing produced so many missiles and aircraft in its facilities in this state that some joked SAC stood for Seattle Air Command rather than Strategic Air Command.

By the end of the decade, Boeing had expanded into Everett, laying the foundation for its current operations, which are a fixture in the economy and culture of the city.

There's no evidence Jackson courted Boeing, but Dotzauer said there's no question the firm located in the senator's hometown because of his unbending support.

It's also not certain who first derisively dubbed Jackson as "the senator from Boeing," or when.

Its usage dates back to the mid-'50s and the height of the Cold War, according to a biography of Jackson entitled "A Certain Democrat."

"It was an attempt to say that I was tied up with the munitions makers, the merchants of death and all that business," Jackson told authors William W. Prochnau and Richard W. Larsen.

* * *

There are plenty of tributes to Jackson in Everett.

His name is on a park, a plaza and high school. His bust is now on display in a park across from his home.

Yet as time passes, more and more people may wonder, exactly who was this Henry Jackson?

Paul Elvig of Everett, a longtime Republican activist, has a simple answer.

"If a kid at Jackson High School walked up to me and asked, 'Why is this school called Jackson?' I'd tell him it was named after a political giant," he said.

And one who left big footprints in the hometown he loved.

Henry M. Jackson's example enriched us all



Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson on April 5, 1980. (Herald file)

“Henry Jackson mastered the delicate balance of democracy, the art of being a servant to a vast public without being servile to any part of it. He was the finest public servant I have known.”

Source:

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By George Will, Washington Post Columnist

Painted on the walls of the Senate reception room are portraits of the five men who were selected by a special committee, a quarter of a century ago, to constitute a kind of Senate hall of fame. The portraits are of Clay, Calhoun, Webster, La Follette and Taft. There is no more space on the walls of that room, but there is a non-functional door. That door should be removed, and the wall filled in, and adorned with a portrait of a sixth senator. A Senate hall of fame without Henry Martin Jackson is as unthinkable as Cooperstown without George Herman Ruth.

A silly person once said that only silly persons have heroes. But only exceptionally small persons will not pay homage to the exceptionally large persons among us. Heroes make vivid the values by which we try to live. I say, unabashedly, and with many others: Henry Jackson was my hero.

Because he was magnificently uninterested in the cosmetics of politics, dull persons considered him unexciting. But discerning persons by the millions recognized that his kind of character is as exciting as it is rare. Persons who, under the pressure of fashion, are as flexible as fly rods found Jackson incomprehensible. They came to the absurd conclusion that he had departed from the liberal tradition.

He was a pioneer of environmentalism. He was the preeminent champion of civil rights. He fought for the full domestic agenda and authored legislation that put teeth into U.S. pronouncements on behalf of Jews and others persecuted by the Soviet regime. And if Jackson's proposals for substantial force reductions had been adopted, we might have had arms limitation agreements that actually limit arms.

The ironic truth is that Jackson was one of those persons -- Felix Frankfurter was another -- whose constancy was mistaken for change. He never wavered from his party's traditional belief that there is no incompatibility between government with a caring face at home and government with a stern face toward adversaries.

Jackson was an anchor against weariness, wishful thinking and apostasy in his party, and his country. He nurtured in this republic something without which no republic can long endure: a

sense that problems are tractable. To be in his presence was to experience the wholesome infection of a reviving spirit. This was especially remarkable because he, more than any contemporary, looked unblinkingly at, and spoke uncomfortably about, the terrors of our time. He taught less clear-sighted, less brave persons how to combine realism and serenity.

He missed the ultimate prize of our politics, perhaps because he lacked the crackling temperament that marks persons who burn on the surface with a hard, gem-like flame. If his political metabolism seemed uncommonly calm, that is because he had the patience of a mature politician - a gift for planning, thirst for detail and a sense of ripeness in issues. He had a flame, but he had depth in which he kept it.

In committees and on the Senate floor, he was a cannon loaded to the muzzle with knowledge born of diligence. His unrivaled effectiveness was a rebuke to the less industrious and a refutation of the theory that in politics fancy footwork is necessary and sufficient.

A legislature is a face-to-face society, where character and moral force tell. What Jackson did in committees and on the floor was awesome. But it was only a small fraction of the work he did during four decades of 18-hour days, working with one member after another, one member at a time, building coalitions of common sense.

I remember a day, nearly a decade ago, when I went panting along in the wake of Jackson on a campaign swing from Washington to Philadelphia

to Shreveport and back. When I was decanted from the little plane after midnight, I was a broken shell of my former self. Henry Jackson, twice my age and fresh as a tulip, bounded off into the night.

His legendary energy flowed as much from his spirit as from his physiology. His biography is an essay on the sources of American vitality. He was the son of immigrants, and of the American West. He had the stamina of parents who crossed an ocean and then a continent, and he had the optimism of his region.

For longer than I have been alive, Congress has been embellished by his presence. And for longer than I live, public life shall be enriched by the radiating force of his character. Why? Consider.

If you wonder who real leaders are, find out who has real followers. By real followers I mean persons who follow a leader onto a path of life, who adopt careers where they navigate by stars he has taught them to see. The social geology of this city is layer upon layer of persons pulled into public life by the example of lives worth emulating. Today, in numerous public offices, and in law and journalism, there is a thick layer of Henry Jackson's men and women.

There are those, and they are legion, who call themselves "Jackson Democrats." I can say with absolute authority that there is such a thing as a "Jackson Republican."

Henry Jackson mastered the delicate balance of democracy, the art of being a servant to a vast public without being servile to any part of it. He was the finest public servant I have known.



The Jackson family visits with the Solie family in an early 1970s photo. From left to right are Anna Marie, Helen, Olga Solie, Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, Hans Solie and Peter Jackson. (*Ray Watters / The Herald*)

HeraldNet

Jackson remembered as a man who never forgot ordinary people

By Jerry Cornfield, Herald Writer

"Baker, who now serves on the board of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, described Jackson as self-confident without being pretentious and comfortable in any crowd."

Source:

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When it comes to Scoop Jackson, memories abound.

There's his resounding baritone voice in a chorus of Christmas carolers, his appetite for lutefisk and his habit of putting a saucer atop his coffee cup to keep the contents warm.

Remember his beater cars? Plenty do. They also remember that the sight of him behind the wheel made them nervous because he had a reputation as a less-than-stellar driver, though there's no clear evidence why.

Today, on the 100th anniversary of Henry M. Jackson's birth in Everett, civic leaders are throwing a bash at which family and friends will talk about his feats and foibles. The free community celebration begins at 4 p.m. in the conference center of Comcast Arena.

Most often, whether one orbited in the constellation of Jackson's daily life or crossed his path for a fleeting moment, the recollections are of a man ever willing to do the tiny things that made a huge difference in the lives of individuals.

"What Scoop understood is there is no legacy," said Al Ratner, a Cleveland, Ohio, businessman and longtime Jackson confidant.



"It is only the people you touch. What more could you hope for?"

* * *

Jackson could make things happen with a single call or one conversation.

For Dr. Christian Schmitt, a kidney specialist, Jackson's influence paved the way for creation of the Puget Sound Kidney Center.

When the German native arrived in Everett in 1977, his dialysis patients had to travel to the Northwest Kidney Center in Seattle for care. Schmitt wanted to open a treatment facility in Everett and found his efforts opposed by the Seattle organization.

Things changed when the husband of one of Schmitt's patients said he knew Jackson personally.

"He called Senator Jackson and handed me the receiver and I told him the story and the problems," said Schmitt, now 76.

The conversation was short. Jackson said if a committee were formed to get organized and find a site in Everett, he would serve as chairman. Two days after that call, Schmitt said, officials of the Northwest Kidney Center offered to help, as well.

"He must have been pretty powerful," Schmitt said.

* * *

Pauline Burns, known as "Pinky" to her husband and friends, had been crying when Jackson entered the Edmonds drug store where she worked. She knew him, as he'd shopped there before and was a friend of the owner's.

Jackson approached and asked her what was wrong, and she told him the story, recounted her husband John Burns.

This was June 1967. She told him how the youngest of the couple's five sons had enlisted in the Marine Corps and had been hospitalized after a drill instructor "broke him mentally," said the 92-year-old Burns.

"We couldn't find out where Shannon was at that time. He said, 'Pinky, don't worry about. I'll take care of it,' " said Burns, whose wife passed away in April.

The senator went home, packed his bags, flew to San Diego, where their son's platoon was stationed, "and gave the Marine Corps hell," according to Burns.

Jackson reunited them with their son, who now is a doctor in California.

"He really raised Cain down there for us," Burns said. "That just shows how wonderful a statesman Scoop Jackson was."

* * *

Harold Goodrich of Granite Falls credits Jackson for getting him and other soldiers discharged from the military after World War II, months, maybe years, faster than any of them expected.

Goodrich, 89, piloted B-29s, but the war ended before he flew any missions. At that time, he said, soldiers got discharged based on points earned through service, with more points awarded for overseas deployments. Lacking such assignments, he couldn't rack up points fast enough to be released when hostilities ended.

"The war was over and we wanted out. But we couldn't get our points to earn our way out," he said.

Goodrich explained his situation in a letter to Jackson in the summer of 1945. Jackson, then a congressman, replied that he agreed the practice was unfair and pledged to contact the War Department, Goodrich said.

"They changed the system" after Jackson got involved, said Goodrich, who did get his release soon after hearing from the congressman.

Years later, Goodrich sat next to Jackson at the dedication of Jack Webb Park in Granite Falls. Webb, a longtime mayor, was Goodrich's father-in-law.

"I introduced myself," he said. "I was so nervous that I forgot to tell him thanks."

* * *

A different batch of tales emerged from those who grew up in the Everett neighborhood where Henry and Helen Jackson lived with their children, Anna Marie and Peter.

Jo Metzger-Levin and Maddy Metzger-Utt are sisters whose childhood home sat across the alley from the Jackson family abode on Grand Avenue.

"Every year at Christmas, our neighborhood would do Christmas caroling and then have a neighborhood party," they wrote in an email. "We could always count on Senator Jackson and Judge (John F.) Wilson to lead all of us with their strong baritone voices."

Caroling parties tapered off when Jackson ran for president in 1972 and again in 1976. But his candidacy and the Secret Service details assigned to protect him provided fodder for another chapter of stories.

"We had Secret Service officers positioned in our unfinished attic because there was a view of the entire Jackson property," wrote the Metzger sisters.

* * *

Larry O'Donnell of Everett, a local historian and Jackson family friend, tells of a time during the 1976 campaign when Jackson decided to go fishing at a trout farm near Granite Falls. The senator brought his daughter, Anna Marie, and her best friend, Jodi, who is O'Donnell's daughter.

When O'Donnell asked his daughter how it went, she said fine because "the nice men in suits" baited the hooks with the worms.

On another occasion, O'Donnell said, he was outside working on his lawn with an edger when Jackson pulled up to his Grand Avenue home in one car trailed by a station wagon filled with Secret Service officers.

Jackson signaled O'Donnell to come over to the

car, and he did -- with the edger in hand.

"They intercepted me. They were on me like bear on honey," he said.

* * *

Bob Spitzer, 69, of Lake Stevens had a unique relationship with Jackson. The senator and Helen Jackson sponsored his wife's family when they emigrated from Finland. Later, the Jacksons hired his mother-in-law, Irja Hassinen, as a housekeeper.

Periodically, Spitzer and his wife, Marja, would drop by the Jackson home, and while she visited her mom, he camped out in Jackson's home library. Most times the senator was not home.

Spitzer, a Vietnam War veteran, did meet Jackson in 1967. At the time, he was an unemployed electrician, and when Jackson learned this, he phoned the local union hall -- without Spitzer knowing.

"A couple days later I got a call from the union and asked why I had Henry M. Jackson call them," he said. Spitzer did not get a job out of it.

"He really cared about people," Spitzer said. "He really meant it when he said, 'Hi, how are you doing?' "

* * *

There's a litany of reminiscences from those who aided and abetted Jackson in his political career.

In 1972, Tom Tangen, then 15, had recently arrived in Portland, Ore., from Ballard.

On a spring Saturday, after Jackson had entered the race for president, Tangen took part in a 20-mile walkathon in Portland. The starting point happened to be near Jackson's campaign headquarters, and he had an idea to assist the lawmaker, who had helped the commercial fishing industry in which Tangen's father worked.

"I offered to carry a (campaign) sign for the 20 miles," said Tangen, who now lives in Edmonds.

Then things got strange.

"When I got done and returned, they asked for the sign back," he said. "Handing it back was kind of bizarre. I did carry it for 20 miles."

Looking back, he figures they needed to reuse it to save money. But they offered something better -- a chance for him and his mom to meet Scoop Jackson, which they graciously accepted.



Gary Baker was 14 when he volunteered on Henry M. Jackson's 1972 presidential campaign. Baker is shown here before he and other Snohomish County residents took part in a rally in Wisconsin before that state's primary. (Courtesy of Gary Baker)

Gary Baker was 14 when he volunteered on Jackson's 1972 presidential campaign at the suggestion of his dad, Archie, who served in the Legislature before joining Jackson's congressional staff in 1950.

One of Gary Baker's initial tasks: join a group of Everett residents on a chartered flight to Wisconsin for a "Jackson for President" rally.

When Baker graduated from college in 1981, he worked initially in Jackson's Senate office in Seattle, then signed on with his 1982 Senate campaign. His job was driving the senator to events around the state.

"We spent hundreds of hours together," said Baker, an attorney who lives in Lake Stevens. "I'd go to his home to pick him up in the morning, and he would bound out of the house ready to go. He had endless energy."

They drove in an old Chevrolet and popped into McDonald's once in a while for a quick meal. Baker said his toughest duty was staying on schedule because Jackson loved to gab with people he met at

events.

Baker, who now serves on the board of the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, described Jackson as self-confident without being pretentious and comfortable in any crowd.

"He could as easily speak with laborers at a mill as he could with Deng Xiaoping," he said.

When the senator got interviewed on "Meet the Press" or another television talk show -- which happened a lot -- Baker said, Jackson could be disarming.

"When he'd get some high-browed question, he'd say, 'I'm just a country boy from Everett, Washington.' "

As a lawmaker, Jackson never lost an election. Part of the reason was his knack for remembering names and providing the little extras of constituent service.

U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Seattle, remembered seeing Jackson comb through an edition of The Everett Herald, read the birth notices and direct a member of his staff to send the parents a baby book to track their infant's "firsts."

"He was so attentive to the personal stuff," McDermott said. "Henry Jackson was a premier retail politician as well as an international figure."

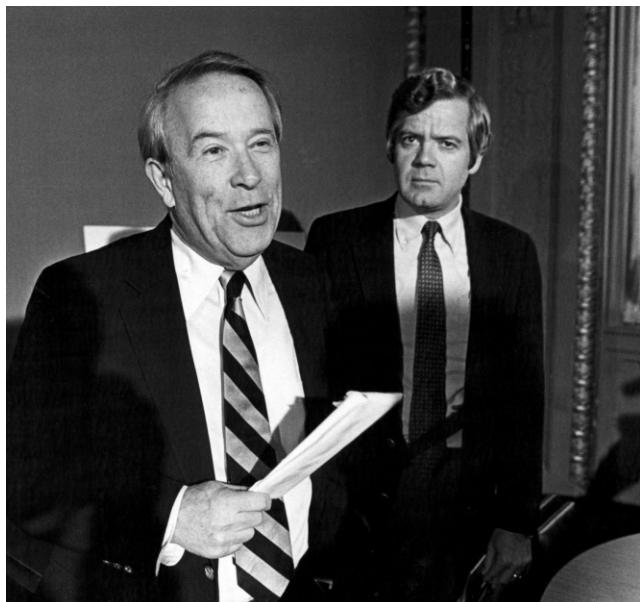
McDermott witnessed Jackson's diplomatic skill up close in 1970 when they campaigned together at a QFC in Seattle where the store owner allowed the two candidates to chat up customers in the check-out lines.

As they stood near one line, a tall woman wearing a rain hat approached them. She peered down at the shorter Jackson and lit into him for supporting the Vietnam War.

"She said, 'Henry I think you're wrong on the war.' He stood there, then gave it back to her, laying out his position," McDermott said. "It was a very instructive demonstration to a new politician of how to deal with those who hold other views."

Jackson knew McDermott opposed the war, as well, but it didn't matter.

"He could accept that you are not with me today but you'll be with me tomorrow," the congressman said.



Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson (left) and Jim McDermott, then a state senator, at a press conference in Seattle on Oct. 18, 1980. Jackson "was so attentive to the personal stuff," McDermott says. *(Michael O'Leary / Herald file)*

While many lionize Jackson's achievements and idolize his service, he's not without his critics.

Jackson's endorsement of the forced relocation of Japanese-Americans into internment camps during World War II is a stain on his political epitaph.

"My life and that of all my relatives were permanently scarred by this," wrote Lyla Anderson of Everett in an email.

Anderson, 67, said she is a Sansei, or grandchild of Japanese immigrants, and her parents were sent to the relocation camp at Tule Lake in Pierce County in 1942.

"My Mom recalled stowing as many cloth diapers as would fit under a makeshift 'banana box' crib for her 4-month-old son," she said. "My Dad tried to raise money by selling off his farm equipment, but with only several weeks notice, not much was generated.

"I've wondered if Mr. Jackson had lived to 1986, would he have supported the public apology and reparations passed by Congress?" she wrote.

And Jackson's fervent backing of the Vietnam War enraged a large swath of his Democratic Party - even though it didn't prevent his re-elections by huge margins.

Thomas Gaskin, a professor of history at Everett

Community College, said students and faculty picketed outside the Jacksons' Everett home during the conflict. As a result, the senator did not visit the campus for several years.

Jackson's attitude and approach toward American Indians evolved.

In his career, he went from essentially supporting a federal policy of breaking treaties with tribes to sponsoring major bills to improve access to health care and education programs for American Indians.

Mark Trahan, a former editorial page editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, documented the senator's journey in his book, "The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars."

"What was remarkable about Jackson is that he reversed course," Trahan wrote in an email. "Jackson was one of this country's greatest statesmen. One who could look at his own record, admit that he was wrong, and then set out to fix it."

* * *

Albert Ratner has met a lot of politicians, but none measure up to Jackson.

"He's the gold standard," said Ratner, the 84-year-old chairman emeritus of Forest City Enterprises Inc., an Ohio property management company.

Ratner worked valiantly to keep Jackson on course for the presidency, often advising him to steer clear of political positions that could doom his effort in 1976.

"A number of times I'd say, 'You do this and you won't be president.' Scoop's answer was, 'So I won't be president. That's not the end of the world,'" Ratner recalled.

One of those times came when the two were eating breakfast and President Richard Nixon phoned Jackson to ask for his help pushing through a controversial bill authorizing construction of a trans-Alaska pipeline.

"I said if he did it he wasn't going to be president. He said, 'I'm going to do it. I love caribou, but, frankly, I fear old ladies in Boston who won't have heat in the winter,'" Ratner said. "He wasn't looking at the project. He was looking at the result."



Henry M. Jackson's son, Peter, and wife, Helen, on Aug. 13, 1984, at the dedication of the Jackson Wilderness and the signing of Ronald Reagan's Washington Wilderness Act. (Jim Leo / Herald File)

HeraldNet

Henry M. Jackson's name endures around the region

By Jerry Cornfield, Herald Writer

“Roughly two dozen buildings, parks and institutions carry the Everett lawmaker's moniker as a lasting tribute.”

To get a sense of the breadth of Henry M. Jackson's legacy, consider the diversity of places bearing his name.

It's on a high school in Mill Creek, a public square in Jerusalem, a visitor's center at Mount Rainier and a United States Navy submarine.

You'll also find Jackson's name on a plaza at Naval Station Everett, a playground in Manhattan, and a national wilderness in east Snohomish County.

There's even a Henry M. Jackson Society at Cambridge University in Great Britain. "It's not where you're from but the ideas that you represent that are important," said Alan Mendoza, who is a founder of the group of political conservatives.

Roughly two dozen buildings, parks and institutions carry the Everett lawmaker's moniker as a lasting tribute.

Here is a rundown of some of those places.

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Henry M. Jackson Foundation, established in Seattle in 1983, is guided in part by Jackson family members to "continue the unfinished work" of the late senator. It provides grants to nonprofit and educational institutions working in the areas of international affair, education, human rights, environment and natural resources management, and public service.

Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, a private not-for-profit organization established by a 1983 law signed by President Ronald Reagan. Jackson sponsored the bill to create this group, which is not connected to the grant-making foundation.

Henry M. Jackson Park at 1700 State St. in Everett covers 14 acres and includes baseball and soccer fields, plus a playground and basketball hoops.

Henry M. Jackson playground in Manhattan, New York City.

Henry M. Jackson Square in Jerusalem.

Henry M. Jackson Wilderness designated in 1984 is a 103,297-acre region bordered by the Glacier Peak Wilderness to the north and the Wild Sky Wilderness to the southwest.

Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center at Mount Rainier National Park. Originally known as the Paradise Visitor Center, the building was renamed in 1987.

Henry M. Jackson Overlook and exhibit on the south slope of Mount Finlayson in San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek, completed in 1994.

Henry M. Jackson plaza at Naval Station Everett.

Henry M. Jackson Conference Center at Everett Community College. The center was dedicated Sept. 7, 1967, with Jackson the featured speaker at the ceremony.

USS Henry M. Jackson, an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine launched Oct. 15, 1983, and commissioned a year later. It is the only Ohio-class submarine not named after a U.S. state.

The Jackson Federal Building in Seattle, also known as the JFB, opened in 1974. It was rededicated and named for the senator in 1984.

Henry M. Jackson Hydroelectric Project, Snohomish Public Utility District No. 1. Located on the Sultan River, the project began operations in 1984.

Henry M. Jackson Apartments in Seattle house low-income individuals and families, many of whom pay with federally issued Section 8 vouchers.

Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington campus in Seattle.

Henry M. Jackson Endowed Fellowship in the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

Henry M. Jackson Professorship at the UW Law School.

Henry M. Jackson internship for the National Bureau of Asian Research.

Henry M. Jackson Distinguished Service Award from the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA). In 1982, JINSA awarded its first "Distinguished Service Award" to Jackson. Following his death, the group renamed the award to honor his memory.

Henry Jackson Society at Cambridge University, England, a self-described cross-partisan think tank devoted to issues such as constitutional democracy, human rights and foreign policy.



Who was Henry Jackson

The man who inspired our Society

Henry M. Jackson (1912-1983) came from a working class Scandinavian background and was elected to the House of Representatives for his native Washington State in 1940. He was an ardent New Dealer, trade unionist, environmentalist and supporter of the early civil rights movement. He was centrally involved in such measures as the 'Land and Conservation Act' (1964), 'The Wilderness Act' (1964), the 'National Seashore Bills' and much else. He was the scourge of corporate interests, particularly power and oil companies, who objected to his enthusiasm for nationalisation and price controls.

Jackson started out during the Second World War as something of an isolationist and voted against initial plans to help Great Britain through the Lend-Lease programme. Very soon, however, the course of events caused him to change his mind, and Jackson remained a protagonist of US international engagement and the application of US power until the end of his life. During the war he was an enthusiastic supporter – along with many other liberals, such as the later Chief Justice Warren – of the internment of the Japanese; this was perhaps his greatest misjudgement. In the 1950s, by contrast he was a critic of the

red-baiter Senator McCarthy and his methods, which he felt gave the noble cause of anti-communism a bad name.

At first, Jackson was very much within the mainstream of the Cold War liberal Democratic Party. He was later marginalised as the party moved to the left after 1968, especially on foreign policy. A strong supporter of Lyndon Johnson's war to contain communism in Vietnam, Jackson became a highly effective critic of Détente with the Soviet Union, which he felt sold out human rights and compromised the security of the free world. Very occasionally, Jackson was prepared to put strategic concerns ahead of human rights – for example in his support for an opening to Peking to balance Moscow – but he was a supporter of sanctions on the apartheid regime in South Africa, even when some thought this inopportune.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination in 1976. Though Jackson remained a loyal Democrat to the end, many of his supporters and staffers switched to the Republicans under Reagan.

For more information see Robert G. Kaufmann, Henry M. Jackson. A Life in Politics (University of Washington Press, 2000).

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