

The story of Vermont politics cannot be told without Jim Jeffords. He served in the most honorable way a person can serve: Selflessly, and always with the best interests of others at heart. He did what he felt was right, not what he felt would make him popular. Whether it was during his time in the Vermont Senate, or as Attorney General, or in the United States House of Representatives, or in the United States Senate, Jim valued the voices of Vermonters over the voices of extremists looking to pull him to the fringes. His is a legacy we can all learn from: Respect over rhetoric, pragmatism over pandering, and love for Vermonters overall.

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In our large, and largely faceless, system of government, he demonstrated the power that one person speaking for their constituents can have. His example of moderation and independence is what I've tried to model my own career off of. My sincere condolences go out to Laura, Leonard, and the entire Jeffords family.