

McGovern

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the courage of their conviction,” said former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, who was McGovern’s campaign manager in 1972.

Hart was one of three former Democratic presidential candidates who paid personal respects Friday to McGovern, who died Sunday at age 90 after a brief stay in hospice care. Hart, Walter Mondale and John Kerry — who like McGovern all spent time in the Senate before unsuccessful runs for the White House — led a crowd of hundreds of mourners. Hart was the only one of the three to speak at the funeral.

“George McGovern was a voice of conscience for our nation in our time,” Hart said. Those who were uncomfortable with McGovern called him a liberal as an insult to try to imply he was weak, Hart added, but “he was larger than any political label, particularly a demonized one.”

In a sign of McGovern’s stature in sparsely populated South Dakota, the service aired live on television in the state’s largest city. As the final farewell to South Dakota’s native son, the funeral was filled with tender reflections and humorous tales from McGovern’s past. A bagpipe procession closed the service. A private burial for McGovern in Washington will be scheduled later.

Larry Fuller, a retired newspaper publisher from Sioux Falls who became friends with McGovern, said it was a fitting tribute for the man who served the state in Washington for two decades. McGovern left office in 1981 after a losing a campaign for a fourth Senate term.

“I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for this state to recognize everything he did for South Dakota, something that didn’t happen after his last election,” Fuller said. “I can’t think of any South Dakotans who had as positive and impact on history as George McGovern.”

Even though he came up short in three tries for president, McGovern is revered on the left as someone who inspired a coterie of young Democrats who would go on to great things. Among his flock of campaign workers were future senators, a secretary of state in Hillary Clinton and a president in Bill Clinton.

The two days of ceremony were something of a reunion of ardent supporters. Old-timers sporting quarter-sized “McGovern” campaign buttons paused for group photos. Another man wore a button declaring: “I Want McGovernment.”

Vice President Joe Biden spoke at a prayer service Thursday night. The dignitary list for Friday included Mondale, a former vice president who was the Democratic nominee in the 1984 presidential race that marked McGovern’s last bid for public office. Kerry, a Massachusetts senator and the 2004 Democratic nominee, made the trip on short notice.

In a show of bipartisanship, South Dakota’s GOP Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Sen. John Thune and Rep. Kristi Noem were there, too.

Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a fellow South Dakota Democrat, held McGovern up as a model citizen who overcame hardship to lead a

Canton Officer Attacked During Stop Back At Work

CANTON (AP) — The assistant police chief in Canton is back on the job a week after authorities say he was attacked during a routine traffic stop.

Dave Jacobs suffered a broken nose, scrapes and bruises in the Oct. 17 incident. The *Argus Leader* reports that he returned to work Wednesday.

Two men were arrested in the incident — one for allegedly attacking Jacobs and a second man who authorities say scuffled with a Lincoln County sheriff’s deputy who responded to Jacobs’ request for backup.

The incident happened the same day South Dakota Highway Patrol Trooper Andrew Steen was struck by a vehicle during a chase in Sioux Falls. State’s Attorney Tom Wollman says the incidents highlight the dangers that officers face in their jobs.

GEORGE McGOVERN 1922-2012



ABOVE: Former U.S. Sen. Tom Daschle speaks during funeral services for former Democratic U.S. senator and three-time presidential candidate George McGovern at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences in Sioux Falls Friday. McGovern died Sunday at age 90. RIGHT TOP: An honor guard followed by family members accompany the hearse carrying McGovern’s body to the Washington Pavilion; RIGHT BOTTOM: Will Mead holds a tri-folded flag as he watches with family members the casket of his great-grandfather, former Democratic U.S. Sen. George McGovern, being carried into the Washington Pavilion Friday.

life of public service.

“I’ve never known anybody who preached the gospel more effectively in so many ways than George: a peacemaker, a humanitarian, a teacher, a minister, a

A testament to McGovern’s crusade against hunger was in the lobby at the funeral: a basket brimming with dried food goods that will go to a needy family.

A program distributed at the memorial service had an image of a smiling McGovern in his twilight and bore a comment Pope John XXII made to McGovern when he was an emissary to Rome for John F.

Kennedy’s administration. It read: “When you meet your Maker and he asks, ‘Have you fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, and cared for the lonely?’ you can answer, ‘Yes.’”

Associated Press writer Kristi Eaton and AP photographer Nati Harnik contributed.



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GARY HART

congressman, a senator, a voice for the voiceless and a champion for hungry children,” Daschle said.

Massachusetts Rep. Jim McGovern, who is not related to George McGovern, also spoke about the love McGovern had for his country.

Most in the audience were family, friends and admirers.

A few hours before the funeral, McGovern’s family gathered to walk behind a hearse bringing the senator’s flag-draped coffin the few blocks from a funeral home to the arts center for the service. One of McGovern’s eight great-grandchildren held a crisply folded flag at the front of the procession.

Bill Walsh, of Deadwood, S.D., drove 400 miles to attend the funeral of a man he has known since growing up two blocks away from McGovern’s home in Mitchell 60 years ago. Reflecting on the 1972 campaign, Walsh said his friend could have won the presidency if he had emphasized his record as a war hero.

His role as a military pilot who did bombing runs over Europe during World War II was a muted part of McGovern’s biography. He returned with medals for valor, but was reluctant to mention that in a campaign setting, especially in the presidential race where he urged an immediate end to U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

He lost the 1972 election to Richard Nixon, who won all but one state. South Dakota even went Nixon’s way. Soon after, Nixon resigned amid the Watergate scandal.

McGovern was also known for his advocacy for world nutrition, a cause he continued long after leaving public office. In 2008, he was awarded the World Food Prize along with former Republican Sen. Bob Dole, who had also faced defeat in a presidential race.

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