

### Tributes

Dale and his family, now grown up as all of our families do while we come to this place and fly that horrendous distance between British Columbia and Ottawa almost weekly, know the sacrifices he made and they too made sacrifices. Our hearts go out to Dale, Kim, Colin and Ken at this time of their bereavement. We will miss him greatly.

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to speak on behalf of the Liberal Party about the late member for North Vancouver, Chuck Cook.

The respected journalist John Warren's tribute in today's *Hill Times* captures well what a lot of us in this House, across the prairies and British Columbia, and elsewhere felt about our colleague.

I have three short quotes from Mr. Warren's piece:

He understood he'd pass this way only once and there wasn't time to waste bearing grudges or regrets. Unlike any politician I've known, he was totally free of vanity or envy.

The second quote is:

He had enjoyed careers, or at least supplemented his income in all these pursuits (in politics, law, education, broadcasting, business, and horse-racing). It made for an unpredictable, often bumpy ride. And one Chuck often conceded he could not have taken without his loving and devoted wife, Dale.

The third quote is:

He read more than anyone I know but laughed at being branded as an unschooled boor for telling publishers they weren't producing the kind of books Canadians want.

Chuck Cook and I entered this House together after the 1979 election. Serving for a decade together in the same caucus I grew to admire him greatly.

He was absolutely straight. He had strong views on many subjects, developed in the cut and thrust of debate, law practice and talk shows in all four western provinces, and he feared no one and nothing in expressing them. Whenever he spoke in the Conservative caucus most listened very carefully. Not a word was wasted. He said what he meant and meant what he said. There was no double talk, no lawyer's sophistry, no blarney, and no apple-polishing. He gave only the unvarnished truth as he saw it, and many people loved him for it.

• (1525 )

This unique but quintessential westerner loved risks and he took them, from being a party Whip, with all of that risk, to horse racing, sailing or poker. I am told today

that he kept the real state of his illness from his family until only late last week, presumably betting he might still beat the odds.

Although Chuck Cook both supported the leadership bid of the Prime Minister in 1983 and served him as Whip after 1984 he broke with his party, as is well known, over the Charlottetown accord. That was the first time he differed with his party in 13 years.

Why? After he cast his dissenting vote he said: "I don't care about the eastern press any more than they care about the voters of North Vancouver".

He believed the accord left western Canada even further under central Canadian dominance than now, and I quote him again: "I represent the people of North Vancouver. In the final analysis that takes precedence over my caucus or my leader". That is a statement that all of us in this House should reflect on very carefully.

Late last year he announced that he would not run again for Parliament because he and his wife wanted to "enter a new stage in our lives".

The *North Shore News* in North Vancouver said this about Mr. Cook last fall:

Chuck Cook is that rarest of political birds: one who speaks his mind rather than simply mouthing the party line—They (his views) have always rung with personal conviction and sincerity, characteristics virtually extinct in the modern political arena.

In writing about this country's 125th anniversary celebration he wrote:

One of our great strengths is the fact that we are a nation of minorities. There is no 'majority' in Canada. We are a collection of minorities, each learning tolerance from the other groups. . . To be Canadian is to have a very quiet pride and knowledge that you are extremely fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, as a British Columbian you will probably know that all of his family called him FB, Father Bear, including friends of his children. For his wife Dale's 65th birthday he flew everyone to North Vancouver for a surprise party for her. Over the past Christmas he spent many hours teaching his favourite indoor game, chess, to his six-year old twin grandsons, Trevor and Michael.

I would like to give two other short vignettes about our colleague's unique personality. When he was a 20-year old broadcaster in Winnipeg he announced that he would throw \$100,000 off the roof of his radio station. There were the predictable traffic jams as he pitched the money from the building. It was Monopoly money. It made the national news.