



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SUBJECT: Mayor Ness issues statement on the passing of Congressman Jim Oberstar

BY: Daniel Fanning, Communications & Policy Director - Mayor's Office

Mayor Ness issues statement on the passing of Congressman Jim Oberstar

[Duluth, MN] - Mayor Don Ness, who worked as Congressman Oberstar’s Campaign Manager from 1997-2007, has issued the following statement:

“Over the past fifty years, no public official has done more for our region than Jim Oberstar. He was this amazing combination of characteristics. He was likely the most brilliant mind in Congress, his memory and understanding of complex policy was legendary. He was also part Iron Range street fighter, he always carried that chip on his shoulder as the son of an immigrant mine laborer. But the most amazing thing about Jim is that he was one of the most kind-hearted and warm people I’ve ever met. He loved people and people loved Jim.

Aside from my family, Jim was the most influential person in my life. He was the perfect mentor because he loved to teach and he took such a passionate and personal interest in the lives and careers of those close to him. In our long car rides across the district, I would pepper him with questions about congressional history, various leaders in Congress, and insight on the day’s news and policy debates. Jim would never disappoint. Even with an audience of just one lowly staffer in the car, Jim would speak passionately, his mind constantly firing on all cylinders.

I’m heartbroken. My prayers are with Jean and Jim’s family. This is such a loss for us all and especially those who love this incredible person.” – Mayor Don Ness