



Peyton H. Hoge III

Mayor Peyton H. Hoge, III was a politician who defied political description. He could not be classified as liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, the only possible term that applied was progressive. He constantly searched for ways to improve his city.

Yet, always mindful of the past, and the qualities that made his town what some have described as idyllic, he formed a historic district to preserve the Anchorage way of life for future residents.

Under his leadership, Anchorage was first in the state with community wide recycling and a national leader in preservation of the urban forest. After obtaining zoning power for Anchorage, he led an innovative, community wide, rezoning directed not just at land use but at the preservation of the community's character. His acts give meaning to the term progressive.

He was a fiscal conservative, but one who made sure his government was always funded, and with a reserve for disaster or the irate outsider who decided to challenge his city in court. If he saw a need, he met it. When ambulance response times in eastern Jefferson County became unacceptable, he formed an ambulance district to serve his city.

He was not afraid of government. His government did exactly what it was supposed to, enable the residents of Anchorage to accomplish together what they could not do alone. He knew that government is not evil; it is those who misuse government who are evil. His large hands never restrained the reins of government. He pulled hard on those reins, but only for direction.

As his city attorney, it was my role to put his ideas into law, or, sometimes, to tell him that his ideas had grown beyond the capacity of the law to support them. That is when he got on the phone and lobbied his many friends and admirers to change the law. When Anchorage went asking in Frankfort, it usually received because of *his* presence.

He was a leader who always remained ahead of his city but who could skillfully read the political winds and knew when to wait for his citizens to catch up. Anchorage residents did not think of him as a politician only because his dominance fended off all challengers. He was the real mayor for life.

His 33-year tenure spanned less than a third of Anchorage's history, however, his personal history will dominate the city for decades to come and will provide for its commonweal. The guiding principle for those who follow him should always be: **What would Peyton do?**

John McGarvey



Hoge family - Mrs. Peyton Hoge center