

Senators Lugar (left) and Bayh confer during a 1980 hearing of a special Senate Judiciary subcommittee that was investigating the relationship of Billy Carter with the government of Libya (AP photo/Harrity).



# AWARD TO HONOR BAYH, LUGAR LEGACY

By Tom Schuman

There are many similarities in the careers of Birch Bayh and Richard Lugar. Among them:

- Managing the family farm – Bayh in Shirkieville, just west of Terre Haute, and Lugar in southwestern Marion County
- Military service – Bayh in the Army and Lugar the Navy
- Beginning public service at a young age – Bayh at 26 in the Indiana House of Representatives and Lugar at age 35 as mayor of Indianapolis (after serving a term on the local school board)
- Competing in the same United States Senate race – incumbent Bayh defeating Lugar (50%-46%) in 1974
- Running for president – Bayh in 1976 and Lugar 20 years later

Most important on that list: They were two of the most influential U.S. senators in the history of our country. They brought a passion for service and a compassion for others. They never let political party labels stand in the way of progress and simply doing the right thing.

Bayh and Lugar passed away earlier this year at ages 91 and 87, respectively. With the support of their families, the Indiana Chamber's annual recognition of a government official dedicated to improving the business climate in our state has been renamed the Birch Bayh and Richard Lugar Government Leader of the Year award.

"Senators Bayh and Lugar have had among the most impactful and distinguished careers of any member of the U.S. Senate," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Kevin Brinegar. "They have been great ambassadors for our state. We look forward to honoring their legacy each year as part of our Annual Awards celebration."

## Birch Bayh

Bayh was the youngest Indiana House speaker ever at the age of 30. He served two years in that role and four as Democrat floor leader among his four terms at the Statehouse.

After election to the U.S. Senate in 1962, Bayh became chairman of the subcommittee on constitutional amendments a year later. Within eight years, he became the only person since the Founding Fathers to author two amendments to the U.S. Constitution:

- The 25th Amendment, drafted shortly after President John F. Kennedy's assassination, established presidential and vice-presidential succession in the case of death, disability or resignation
- The 26th Amendment, lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, moved

through Congress and the states in just over three months in 1971

Two other landmark pieces of legislation were cited by Bayh as his proudest achievements.

- Title IX of the Higher Education Act mandated equal opportunities for women students and faculty. While closely associated with the opportunities that emerged to change the world of college athletics, the impetus for the legislation was a graduate school quota (at a Virginia university) on the number of women accepted each year that denied Bayh's first wife, Marvella, a place in the program.
- The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 enabled universities and small businesses to gain ownership of inventions that resulted from federally funded research. This energized the free enterprise system and was termed "possibly the most inspired piece of legislation to be enacted in America over the past half-century" by *The Economist*.

Former Indiana Governor and current Purdue University President Mitch Daniels stressed the importance of this policy during Bayh's memorial service in May. "Because of that Act, the products of genius on American campuses have been moving out into the world in a way that they would not have, absent that breakthrough." He hoped that Bayh, who received his undergraduate degree from Purdue, was proud "his university is 12th in the world in patents and led the nation the last three or four years in new start-up companies. This doesn't happen without Sen. Birch Bayh."

After his death, *Washington Post* opinion writer Charles Lane said: "In short, Bayh wrote crucial ground rules that contemporary Americans take for granted. You could almost call him a founder of the modern United States." The headline of the editorial: "We're living in Birch Bayh's world. We just don't know it."

## Richard Lugar

Indiana Pacers executive Jim Morris, who was Lugar's chief of staff for the first six years he was Indianapolis mayor, recounts Lugar's approach to politics and life.

"(He) understood that leadership is seeing your opportunity in its largest possible context. How do I make the most of the opportunity right in front of me? How do I do as much good as I possibly can do? And how do I approach it and conduct myself to be inclusive, to bring the best out of so many people – to work hard at finding common ground."

Lugar was a two-time winner of the Indiana Chamber's Government

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Leader of the Year award, in the inaugural year of 1990 and in 2013 upon completion of his record six terms in office.

We'll let others tell part of the expansive Lugar story of accomplishments and success.

From Ambassador Lee Feinstein, founding dean of the Indiana University Hamilton Lugar School of Global & International Studies: "The Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, developed with Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Georgia), brought the United States and Russia into partnership after decades of Cold War to dismantle thousands of nuclear weapons and missiles. ... It is an example of the power of working across political divisions to produce political change."

Lugar served two stints as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was always a voice for human rights and democracy. He also headed the Agricultural Committee and was a respected

authority on that topic and energy security, among others.

In 2015, President Barack Obama presented Lugar with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Upon his death, two former staff members were among the many providing commentary:

- Daniels: "Dick Lugar was not just the finest public servant I will ever know; he was the finest person. He embodied all we can hope for in our leaders: brilliance of mind, purity of motive, stainless in character, tireless in the pursuit of duty."
- Indiana Sen. Todd Young: "At a time when nuclear proliferation was civilization's greatest threat, Sen. Lugar helped save the world. He leaves a legacy as an exemplar of wisdom, civility and bipartisanship. He thought before he spoke. He emphasized substance over personality. In short, he set the bar for public leaders."



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