

Congressman dies of leukemia

Joseph Moakley passes away months after announcing he has incurable cancer

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — Rep. Joseph Moakley, D-Mass., whose political career took him from the poor streets of South Boston to Capitol Hill, died Monday from complications of leukemia.



MOAKLEY

Moakley, who announced in February that he suffered from an incurable form of leukemia, died at the Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Washington, according to associates and family members.

Moakley, who died at 3:30 p.m. EDT, with friends and family including two of his brothers at his side, was 74 years old.

The affable Moakley was the quintessential, old-time Boston Irish politician. After narrowly winning his first congressional election in 1972, he served 15 terms in Congress. He was the top Democrat in the powerful House Rules Committee.

"Joe Moakley not only taught us how to live... he taught us how to die with great class and with great dignity

and even with a little humor," said Rep. James McGovern, D-Mass., a former top aide to Moakley, at a news conference.

McGovern said Moakley considered being a congressman "the greatest job in the world" and that he continued answering mail, working on legislation and with his constituents "up until the very end" when his condition turned for the worse over the Memorial holiday weekend.

President Bush, during a stop in Mesa, Ariz., asked the crowd to observe a moment of silence for Moakley, whom he called a veteran "who loved America," and one who will "be sorely missed." Moakley joined the Navy as a teen-ager and served in World War II.

In Boston, Mayor Thomas Menino ordered flags flow at half staff.

"He was a lunchpail, neighborhood, standup, go-to kind of guy," said former Boston Mayor Raymond Flynn of Moakley. "He was somebody who never forgot where he came from."

Moakley entered the hospital on May 21 for a routine blood transfusion that normally lasted a couple of days. But he remained hospitalized and on

Sunday was described as being in grave condition. His family and friends were close by when he died.

Moakley has had a history of illness. He previously had a liver transplant, a

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kidney removed and his hip replaced.

After disclosing his illness from leukemia on Feb. 12, Moakley announced he would not seek a 16th term in 2002.

Moakley's death leaves three vacancies in the House where Republicans will now hold a 221-209 edge over Democrats. There are two independents. Massachusetts Gov. Jane Swift, a Re-

publican, must call a special election to determine Moakley's successor.

Moakley's brothers, Bob and Tom arrived from Massachusetts to keep vigil. They were by his side when he died. Moakley was a widower. His wife of nearly 40 years, Evelyn, died in 1996 of brain cancer. They had no children.

In the months after his announcement, he was showered with accolades. Congress has declared the federal courthouse in Boston to be named the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse.

Signing the legislation in March at a White House ceremony, President Bush saluted Moakley as "a man of strong opinions and broad respect."

"And in this town," the president quipped, "it isn't always easy to combine the two."

"I always thought growing up that my name would be on some federal building," Moakley responded. "But I thought it might be written in chalk with some political expletive right behind it."

A longtime friend of former House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Moakley lived in South Boston his en-

tire life, commuting from Washington on weekends. With his Irish features and strong accent, the outgoing lawmaker mingled colorful stories into discussions on otherwise serious topics.

"Joe embodied the highest ideals and values of the nation, and public service is a more noble profession because of his life and the example that he set," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. He said Moakley as dean of Massachusetts' congressional delegation "touched the hearts of all of our people."

During his 28 years in Congress, Moakley spent much of his time in support of local projects such as building the courthouse that bears his name, the \$14 billion Big Dig highway project and the multi-billion Boston Harbor cleanup.

While not known for his foreign policy expertise, during the 1980s, Moakley fought to cut off military aid to El Salvador and bring to justice the murderers of Jesuit priests there. He led a congressional probe that uncovered evidence that the El Salvador military, which had been heavily subsidized by U.S. aid, had roused the priests from their beds and shot them in the head.

Chief of staff takes blame for Jeffords decision to quit GOP

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's top staff aide took the blame for the defection of Sen. James Jeffords from the Republican Party to become an independent, a move that shifted control of the Senate from the GOP to the Democrats.

"I think I've got to do a better job of communicating with people on Capitol Hill, but the president has done nothing wrong," said White House chief of staff Andrew Card Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." He added that Bush has no plans to retaliate against Jeffords, saying: "He is not about political retribution or paybacks."

While pledging to work with

the White House, incoming Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said some items on Bush's wish list, including drilling for oil in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, are "dead." He also told NBC's "Meet the Press" he could not envision building more nuclear power plants, as Bush's energy task force recommended, before figuring out how to dispose of nuclear waste.

Card responded: "It sounds to me like he (Daschle) doesn't have an agenda other than an agenda of 'no.' ... This should not be about just saying no to any agenda that the president puts forward."

Losing control of the Senate to Democrats will not deter Bush from pressing ahead with his agenda, Card said.

"We'll be able to get the president's agenda put forward because it's an agenda for America."

"The president has done nothing wrong."

— Andrew Card
chief of staff

he said. "This president wants to work toward future changes for America that are important to

him. He campaigned on them, and he's going to deliver them."

Card said the president bears no responsibility for Jeffords' defection, which the senator said was prompted by his inability to reconcile his moderate positions with the conservative agenda set by Bush and other GOP leaders.

Daschle said Bush has "shut us out" of major decisions. He recounted a telephone conversation he had with the president after Jeffords' announcement last week: "I said, 'Look, if there's ever been a time for us to begin working together, this is it. Now we've got to find a way with which to talk more effectively.'"

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., the

News in Brief

Girl killed when van crashes, flips

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A speeding van crammed with children on their way home from a party plowed into several cars and flipped over, killing a 4-year-old girl and injuring 12 other children and one adult.

"He was bumping off cars like a pinball machine," said Laura Lannuzzi, 21, who saw Sunday night's crash from her stoop.

Police apprehended 50-year-old Willis Mitchell of Philadelphia on Monday and said he was the van's driver. Mitchell, who police said fled after the crash, was hospitalized with minor injuries and was being questioned by detectives. No charges had been filed Monday afternoon.

"At some point, he'll be charged, but we're not ready to talk about what charges yet," Philadelphia police Capt. Ted Sideras said.

The van struck several parked cars, hit a construction trash bin and overturned, Sideras said.

"We believe it was well in excess of the speed limit," he said.

Four children, ranging in age from 4 to 12, were ejected. Two children remained hospitalized Monday.

Resort evacuated by Nev. wildfires

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A 4,000-acre wildfire prompted evacuations Sunday in a resort community about 40 miles northeast of the city.

Fire information officer Phil Guerrero said a 60-space recreational vehicle park in the town of Sutcliffe on Pyramid Lake's west shore was evacuated after the fire burned as close as half a mile to it.

The blaze also forced the evacuation of about 75 campers and closed Nevada Route 445. No major injuries were reported, but two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

High winds foiled more than 250 firefighters' efforts to stop the spread of the fire. The winds also grounded three planes that were fighting the blaze.

Officials had just declared the lightning-caused fire fully contained at 2,511 acres Saturday evening when gusts of up to 40 mph caused embers to jump fire lines and the blaze to roar out of control

U.S. offers to buy Russian weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration intends to offer Russia a broad range of arms purchases, military aid and joint anti-missile exercises in a bid to ease Moscow's objections to White House missile defense goals.

The package is being prepared for Bush's meetings in June and July with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and similar incentives will be extended to other allies skeptical of the administration's push to dispense with the 1972 Antiballistic Missile Treaty, said a senior administration official.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the proposals are likely to include an offer to buy Russian-made S-300 surface-to-air missiles that could be used to defend Russia and Europe.

Many of the proposals have been sketched out to allies and mentioned publicly in broad terms by Bush and his aides, but the *New York Times* was the first to report Monday that S-300 missiles may be part of the package.

"We want to convince the Russians that it is in their best interest to move beyond the ABM treaty and to develop a new relationship with us," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice told the newspaper.

Race riots erupt in northern England

LONDON (AP) — Riot police battled firebomb-hurling youths for the second straight night in a racially tense town in northern England, arresting a dozen people, police said Monday.

The violence trailed off before dawn Monday and was less intense than the outbreak of fighting the previous night in Oldham, just outside Manchester about 150 miles northwest of London.

Britain's worst racial violence in years came less than two weeks before a June 7 general election. "Riots put race back on poll agenda," the *Times of London* said in a headline Monday.

The initial fighting Saturday night and early Sunday, involving whites and youths of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin, appeared to catch police by surprise. On Sunday night, police were out in force before the trouble began.

About 100 officers in full riot gear sealed off main roads and patrolled with dogs. Police vans

were parked on every corner in the neighborhood that was the scene of the previous night's violence, and a helicopter circled overhead.

Despite the heavy police presence, a local newspaper office was firebombed, shop windows smashed, bricks hurled into at least one pub, and barricades of furniture and tires were burned.

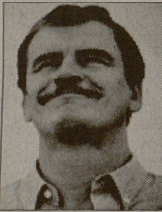
At one point, about 30 white people walked through the streets, singing and chanting racist slogans until police dispersed them. By 4 a.m., the streets were quiet, and no new injuries were reported.

Twelve people were arrested Sunday night and early Monday in connection with the violence, according to Greater Manchester police.

Oldham has been the scene of increasing racial tensions in recent months after a series of rallies staged by members of the National Front, a small right-wing extremist group with racist views.

Fox's party earns victory in Mexico

MERIDA, Mexico (AP) — President Vicente Fox's National Action Party appears to have scored another major victory against the party that ruled Mexico for seven decades, winning the governorship of the southeastern state of Yucatan.



FOX

With 63 percent of the vote counted on Monday, PAN's Patricio Patron had 51.7 percent of the votes to 45.2 percent for Orlando Paredes of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Sunday's vote was the first state elec-

tion since Fox took office as Mexico's president in December, ending 71 years of PRI rule. It showed a continuing erosion of support for party that long dominated every aspect of Mexican political life and governed every state.

Yucatan was one of the PRI's southern strongholds and was governed by one of the party's more influential politicians, Victor Cervera Pacheco, who was famed for passing out refrigerators, bicycles and building materials at election time.

The National Action Party's victory helps it break out of its traditional base in conservative northern states.

Fox angered local PRI members by calling to congratulate Patron late Sun-

day after only exit polls showed he was the winner.

Patron said his first task "will be to heal the divisions and polarization" caused by the hard-fought election, which saw federal election officials intervene to throw out a PRI-dominated state electoral board.

As for the PRI, Patron said, "I see a difficult future for them. I think they will simply disappear in Yucatan."

The PRI candidate, Orlando Paredes, was refusing to concede. He led in early returns from rural regions, but the trend shifted toward National Action as votes were counted from the capital, Merida, where nearly half of the state's people live.

PRI leaders on Monday accused Fox

of interfering in the vote by pushing the state to adopt fairer electoral rules.

"Vicente Fox has to learn that democracy does not mean destroying your opponents," said the party's national leader, Dulce Maria Sauri, a former Yucatan governor. "His whole plan seems aimed at bringing us to our knees."

Patron borrowed Fox's campaign slogan and symbol, but it was unclear how much he was helped by Fox, whose recent tax-increase proposal has been unpopular.

Patron also was backed by the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, which is the third-largest nationally but which has been weak in Yucatan.