

Stassen

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For instance, while serving as county attorney, Stassen helped to settle a dispute between local dairy farmers and St. Paul merchants. The dairy farmers had threatened to block a local highway and dump milk in protest of low milk prices.

"Dad said to them, 'If you do that, we will need to arrest you, and there will probably be violence and other farmers will get hurt and it won't solve anything.'"

Stassen then volunteered to represent the farmers free-of-charge and convince St. Paul

buyers to pay higher prices. The farmers agreed and Stassen was successful in negotiating higher milk prices.

Another life-changing moment in Stassen's life as county attorney occurred during a strike at South St. Paul's stockyards, Glen said. The National Guard surrounded the stockyards with bayonets and forced the striking meat packers away from the building so non-union workers could get in.

Glen said his father always remembered that scene because of the unjust treatment of workers.

"Through these experiences, he learned to solve violence by talking things through and by making a plan that can take what people need seriously,"

Glen said. "I think his peace-making life career ... came out of his hometown labor strife."

The lessons learned as a young man in Dakota County would remain with Stassen into his later years as governor, and later as foreign diplomat.

While governor, Stassen helped pass legislation requiring workers to wait 30 days before being allowed to strike.

"He cut down the number of strikes by about one-third with this law," Glen said.

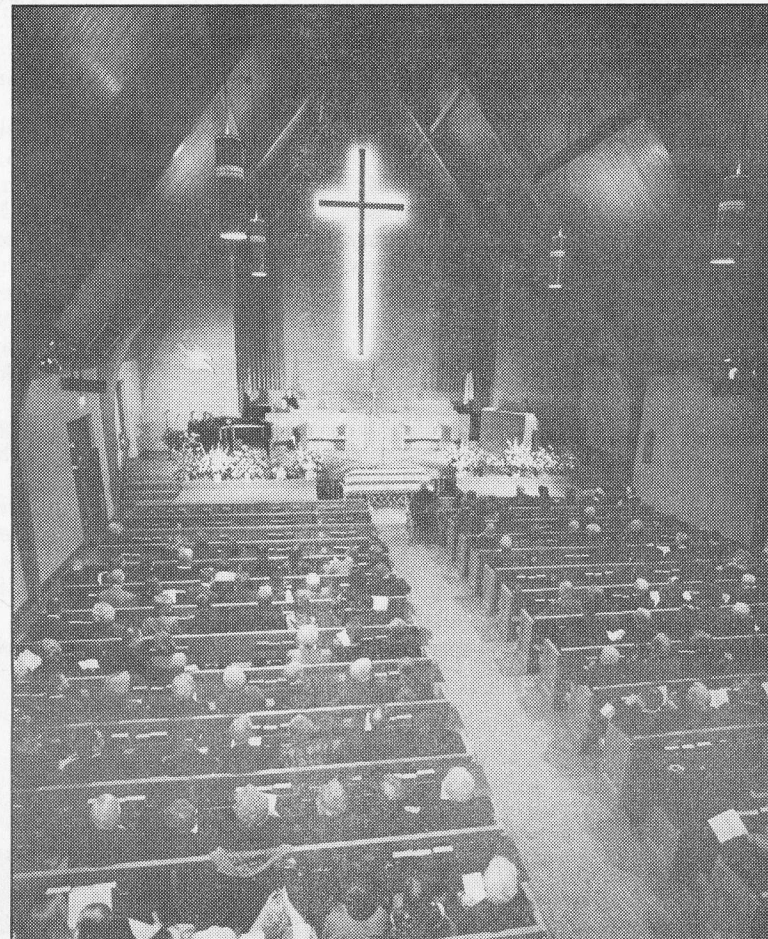
In 1943, Stassen left Minnesota to fight in World War II. He served in the Pacific Theater and helped liberate prisoners of war.

After the war, Stassen played a critical role in helping found the United Nations, serving as a delegate for the United States. He later ran for the Republican nomination for president in 1948, narrowly losing to Thomas Dewey.

After losing the election, Stassen remained on the East Coast, serving as president of the University of Pennsylvania. Although temporarily out of the political arena, grandson Bill Stassen recalled at the funeral how his grandfather had been a crusader for racial justice at the university, integrating both the football team and medical school.

"People don't know about it [his civil rights work] because he didn't talk about it," his grandson said. "He didn't do the things for self-recognition [or] for public accolades. He did them because they were the right thing to do."

Stassen and his wife came back to Minnesota in 1978, mov-



David Eyestone/Sun Newspapers

Hundreds of mourners paid their final respects to Harold Stassen March 10 in West St. Paul

ing to Sunfish Lake. During this time, he became known as a perennial candidate for president as a platform to express his views.

The last few years of his life were spent in a nursing home in Bloomington, helping care for his wife, who died last October.

In addition to Stassen's international accomplishments,

Glen said his dad was a caring father who taught his children the importance of integrity and justice.

"My sister and I broke down crying at those points when we talked about what a gift it was to have such a father," he said. "We really are grateful for his caring and support."



David Eyestone/Sun Newspapers

Harold Stassen's granddaughter, Rachel Stassen-Berger speaks at his funeral.

On 100th anniversary of his birth, lessons from Stassen's legacy

Today is the 100th anniversary of my father's birth. I want to tell a story about him that can help us get our bearings in this confusing time.

When Dad was 7 years old, World War I began — and lasted for four years of tragic and senseless suffering.

As a boy, Dad used to read the National Geographic Magazine regularly. (Grandpa Stassen was an immigrant German tomato farmer with a sixth-grade education, but he subscribed to National Geographic.) As a Christian teenager, Dad made a commitment to do what he could to prevent more wars. Years later, Dr. Gerald Brodschi, the director of the International Center at the University of Louisville, attended a conference with my father; he told me he was amazed at Dad's knowledge of world geography.

Among the things Dad knew was this: The failure of the United States to join the League of Nations after World War I contributed to the coming of World War II.

While Dad was governor of Minnesota from 1939 to 1943, as World War II was breaking out, he did what was unusual for a Midwestern Republican governor: He advocated that the United States should lead in forming a United Nations to prevent more such wars.

President Franklin Roosevelt heard him make that case in the annual Gridiron Speech in Washington in 1940, and it made an impression. Roosevelt himself called for forming a United Nations, and appointed my father to take a temporary leave from the U.S. Navy to be a U.S. delegate to the U.N. charter-writing assembly in San Francisco in 1945. Dad worked to reach agreement on the U.N. Charter, overcoming disagreements by Russians and others.

When the assembly was over, the reporters covering the Assembly from the many nations voted on who contributed the most to the charter's success. Dad tied with the ambassador from Australia for the award.



**GLEN
HAROLD
STASSEN**

In the Navy during World War II, Dad experienced the fierce battles with the Japanese in the South Pacific. He then saw the devastation in Japan itself. Even before the Japanese surrender was officially signed, he rushed in a Jeep from Japanese POW camp to POW

camp rescuing prisoners. He showed us photos of emaciated and starving prisoners.

When he got back, he told me: "War is so terrible that we have to do all we can to prevent World War III. Atomic bombs are so destructive that we have to do all we can to prevent another use of those bombs."

Before he died, he said, "Well, the United Nations is not perfect, but it and work on international agreements have helped prevent world war and nuclear war for 50 years." He loved the work I was doing on developing the new ethic of just peacemaking. I learned that political science data show he was right: Nations cooperating actively with the U.N. experience war less often.

I believe my father's message can help us understand what so many of us, regardless of political party, observe: Present policies are not working out well, and the rest of the world increasingly resents the United States. We need help diagnosing what has gone wrong so the next administration, of whichever party, makes the right corrections.

Advisers who have now left the present administration pushed to base security not on international cooperation but on U.S. firepower. They refused the U.N. inspectors' reports that they could find no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and made war despite the opposition of the U.N. Security Council.

They withdrew from or blocked eight international treaties, mostly designed to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. They removed the protection of international law from prisoners of war, who were then tortured. They refused negotiations with North Korea, Iran and Syria. Dad died

HAROLD STASSEN

Harold Stassen was elected governor of Minnesota in 1938 at age 31, the youngest governor ever in the U.S., and re-elected by landside in



1940 and 1942. He led Minnesota to combat political cronyism and

graft by developing its first civil service law and an impartial state purchasing system; a "Count Ten" labor law that provided a 10-day "cooling-off period" before a strike and greatly reduced the number of strikes; and he integrated the Minnesota National Guard racially well before U.S. Armed Services later followed Minnesota's lead. He resigned in 1943 to serve in the Navy in World War II. He was director of foreign aid under President Dwight Eisenhower, and then, as Eisenhower's "secretary for peace," he began the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

March 4, 2001; I am thankful he did not live to see this.

Credit Condoleezza Rice and Christopher Hill for moving us a step back toward the international cooperation that has achieved North Korea's agreement to stop developing nuclear weapons. I hope for talks with Iran and Syria, as recommended by the bipartisan Iraq Study Group.

On this, my father's 100th birthday, I commit myself to doing my bit to restore international cooperation in order to prevent another major war, or nuclear war. I invite others to join me.

Glen Harold Stassen is Lewis Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and is the author of "Living the Sermon on the Mount" and editor of "Just Peacemaking: Ten Practices for Abolishing War."

Governor, Warrior, Peacemaker



During a war, we should try to preserve as many liberties as possible; if we wish to keep our own, we should accord the same right to our neighbor.

Pacific

1944 U.S. forces return to Philippines; major elements of Japanese navy destroyed at Battle of Leyte Gulf

1945 U.S. forces invade Luzon

U.S. forces land on Iwo Jima

U.S. forces liberate Manila

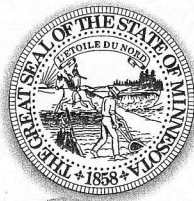
Firebombing missions begin over Japanese mainland

Invasion of Okinawa begins, the longest and bloodiest battle since Guadalcanal

ARMY AND NAVY PHOTO BY JAMES HENRY MORGAN

Top: Crew members crowd the deck as Japanese sign

Minnesotans from all walks of life, from average citizens to politicians, heeded the call of duty. Harold Stassen, the state's youngest governor when elected in 1938 at age 31, resigned his office to enter active duty in the Navy. In the summer of 1945, Stassen helped negotiate the release of thousands of POWs held in Japan, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. He witnessed history at the Japanese surrender later that year. As one of the American delegates to the first United Nations Conference, Stassen assisted in writing the U.N. Charter. Three other World War II veterans went on to become Minnesota governors: Marine Major Orville Freeman, wounded in the Pacific; Army Lieutenant Karl Rolvaag,



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen was born in West St. Paul, Minnesota, on April 13, 1907; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen graduated from the University of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Law School where he served as president of the student council and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the ROTC program; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen was elected Dakota County Attorney at the age of 22 and served for 9 years; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen became the youngest person to serve as governor of any state when he was elected Governor of the State of Minnesota in 1938 at 31 years of age; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen promised during the 1942 campaign that, if re-elected, he would resign from office after the legislative session to join the U.S. Navy; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen was re-elected in 1942 and joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 as a Lieutenant Commander and was assigned to active duty on the USS Missouri; and
- WHEREAS: In 1945, President Roosevelt named Harold E. Stassen to the American delegation of the Founding Conference of the United Nations where the world press named him as one of the most influential people in drafting the United Nations Charter; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen's decorations include 3 battle stars for his operation of the Combat Information Center as the Third Fleet destroyed Japan's naval forces, Legion of Merit, and promotion to captain for his part in the release of 14,000 POWs from the Japanese mainland; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen was appointed to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's cabinet as Director of Mutual Security and later as the President's Special Assistant tasked with working on disarmament where he was active in implementing the 1955 Geneva Summit; and
- WHEREAS: Harold E. Stassen wrote 3 books during his career: *Where I Stand*, *Man Was Meant to Be Free*, and *Eisenhower, Turning the World Toward Peace*.

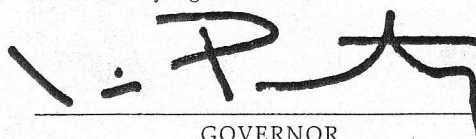
NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM PAWLENTY, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim that Friday, April 13, 2007, the 100th anniversary of Harold E. Stassen's birth, shall be observed as:

GOVERNOR HAROLD E. STASSEN DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 13th day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the State the one hundred forty-eighth.


GOVERNOR