

Tribute to David Rockefeller

By the Hon. Roy MacLaren

David Rockefeller was a man of great good will, of wide understanding, and perhaps most important of all, an unfailing gentle sense of humour that gave him an intellectual equilibrium that has benefitted us all. He embodied the traditional American virtues of benevolence and tolerance toward mankind, in all its varieties expressed in his liberal instincts in the arts, business and politics. In his remarkable international understanding he demonstrated his belief in continuing reform, of imaginative adaptation to a constantly changing and increasingly global world whose natural environment must to be cherished for present and future generations. I was present at David's creation of the Trilateral Commission almost fifty years ago. He was early in his remarkable understanding that the world was moving on from the stale and sterile divisions of the cold war. He was in the vanguard of those recognized that a new, exciting global world was emerging. David had the foresight to advocate a commission which would bring together in the first instance Europe, North America and Asia and eventually the yet wider world beyond in common pursuits. There is obviously much to do to achieve the peaceful, prosperous world that remained David's vision throughout his long and immensely productive life. But His dynamic contributions- and they were uniquely his- have helped to set us all on the track that will move us closer to our shared goals.

Thank you, David, for all that you did.

By Winston Lord

David Rockefeller did well while doing good.

Few Americans in recent history have compiled such a widespread legacy of good works in philanthropy, culture, business, urban development, and international affairs. He succeeded by setting examples, personal generosity, convening and cajoling – blending passion and modesty. While the nation will miss him as a leader, Bette and I will miss him and his beloved Peggy as friends and partners. We collaborated at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Trilateral Commission and on many other fronts. We navigated the Yangtse River, French canals and New England waters, the last on a sloop named after a bestseller by my wife. We will honor his achievements and treasure our memories, from New York to Pocantico, from Maine to China.

Winston Lord

By Joseph Nye

David Rockefeller was a man of vision and a man of action. Concerned about the growth of global interdependence in the period after World War II and the isolation of Japan and Asia from the informal contacts that help nations to overcome frictions, he not only developed the idea of a Trilateral Commission, but participated in its organization and meetings. Years later, he was a key supporter when we decided to broaden our Asian membership to include China and India. David was both our inspiration as founder, and a wonderful host to our executive committee when we met in Pocantico. We named our annual intake of bright young leaders "David Rockefeller Fellows," and the Trilateral Commission will remain an important part of his legacy.

Joseph Nye, Chair, North America.