

Cy King – A Democratic Hero

For decades, Cy King has committed his time, wisdom and resources to the causes of justice, peace, and civil rights. His work, done with quiet humility, has set an example for me and many others who love and respect him. Cy is a tireless worker for ideals that all people, not just Democrats, should care about. Cy says he is a Democrat because “the Democratic Party has represented the most effective tool for moving our nation toward a more just society.”

He was part of the Raleigh Peace Initiative that evolved into the Nuclear Freeze Movement and demonstrated the essence of grassroots involvement. It persuaded Raleigh City Council to adopt an ordinance that required the city manager to annually "petition the President of the United States to propose to the Soviet Union a nuclear weapons freeze." This continued until the Soviet Union collapsed and the Council rescinded the ordinance.

Cy was also instrumental in the beginnings of the Civil Rights movement in Raleigh and he remains committed to defending basic human rights -- the rights of minorities, immigration reform, the rights of workers to organize, a living wage for working people, campaign finance reform, and universal health care.

Cy enlisted and served with distinction in the US Army in Europe during World War II.

Active in the Democratic Party organization, he has served as precinct chair, is a regular participant in the County convention and executive committee, and is a long time member of the Wake Democratic Men's Club. As a McGovern supporter, he was an alternate delegate to the 1972 National Convention. He helped lead the “Ramsey Clark for President” organization, an active liberal support group for progressive local candidates.

He and his wife and partner in all of these endeavors, Carolyn, have worked together for these causes in the community and in their church, the Community United Church of Christ in Raleigh (CUCC). They are both leaders in CUCC and Cy currently chairs the Sunday Forum which provides opportunities for study and discussion of public policy issues primarily relating to peace and justice. Cy and Carolyn have been honored by numerous organizations for their work: the Finlator Award by Wake County Civil Liberties Union, the Citizens Award by *The Independent*, and the Peacemaker Award by North Carolina Peace Action.

“Cy King's the best example I know of that Gandhi saying that so many people quote, the one about being the change you want to see. Cy, the great peace activist, always has a smile and a good word--and never a bad word--as if peace really is at hand.”
-- *Bob Geary*

“Cy stands up for peace every month at the post office downtown and at most every rally. He lobbies our legislators and often presents the case for peace through letters to the editor. He reaches out to people who are newly driven to work for peace to welcome and include them in his work, and to support their approaches.”
-- *Linda Watson*

“We know of no couple who have better represented and exemplified the true values of the Democratic Party than Cy and Carolyn King. From the earliest local struggles for civil and human rights (integration of Raleigh public schools, sit-ins at local businesses), to their patriotic opposition to the Vietnam War, and now to the disaster of Iraq, the so-called Patriot Act and its trampling of our constitutional freedoms, and their public concern for migrant laborers...there is no end to their ACTIVE involvement. And speaking of values, with Democrats such as Cy and Carolyn, Republicans can not possibly lay claim to being the party of values, real values. They are real PATRIOTS, real AMERICANS!”
-- *Bill and Jane Tucker*

"Through out his life, Cy King has consistently taken a stand for what was right, with no fudging or trimming. By example, Cy sets an incredibly high standard for those who strive to live with integrity."
-- *Sandy Babb*

Cy King is a hero – and Democrats are proud to call him one of theirs.

Submitted by Cynthia Ball