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## A Tribute to Richard G. Lugar

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## EDITORIAL

### IN MEMORIAM



#### *A Tribute to Richard G. Lugar*

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*by* Elizabeth F.R. Gingerich, Editor-in-Chief

On April 28, 2019, former U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar died, leaving the world to mourn the loss of a superior leader and statesman. Often described publicly as non-confrontational, mild-mannered, and fiercely committed to developing America's foreign policy in a bipartisan fashion, Lugar spent six terms in the U.S. Senate, representing the State of Indiana.

I first made direct contact with Senator Lugar during the summer of 2007, shortly after it had been announced that several fossil fuel industries along the shoreline in Northwestern Indiana were dumping hundreds of gallons of ammonia-laced water directly into Lake Michigan on a daily basis – all without public commentary or appropriate regulatory intervention. In expressing my concern about these developments to him via email, the Senator conveyed his angst as well, additionally commenting that Indiana citizens must protect their own “Yosemite National Park.”

I was so moved by his communique that I asked if he would submit a writing to be included into the inaugural issue of the JVBL. Upon receiving a favorable reply, it turned out that not only did I eventually update his Congressional bio, but I was invited to Washington, D.C. to speak with him in person. I leapt at the chance and in late November of 2007, headed directly to the Russell Building. As the ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Services Committee, Senator Lugar had been called to an emergency meeting; I was fortunately allowed to tag along.

It was during this hearing that I first learned of the US-Mexico “guns for drugs” criminal enterprise. Far from condemning Mexico, the Senator commented that he could understand why a head of household would resort to this kind of exchange to provide for the needs of his family. He could empathize with the reality of that situation. Upon hearing of his passing, these words resonated as news continues of the heartbreak of refugees at the Southern border – heads of household trying to escape both violence and disabling impoverishment to provide for the needs of their families.

Lugar, a corn farmer, was also the first individual I had come to know who advocated the development of biofuels – including the ethanol-based renewable fuel (E-85) – and strongly advocated the reduction of America's dependence on foreign oil and the development of new strategies for alternative sources of energy. He was one of the first high-profile representatives sounding the alarm to address matters of national energy security.

Lugar's worldwide acclaim originated from his calling attention to the threat of nuclear proliferation and potential planetary destruction. In this vein, he successfully co-sponsored

the *Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1991* which authorized \$400 million a year to be used for arms control purposes. He is credited with neutralizing over 7500 nuclear warheads, closing down 47 biological weapons centers, retraining thousands of weapons scientists, and preempting the distribution of fissile material which could have created thousands of nuclear bombs – all within the then imploding Soviet Union.

In January 2008, the Senator contributed a letter of welcome to the inaugural issue of the JVBL:

*Dear Friends:*

*Valparaiso University is a recognized institution of higher education devoted to developing people who can navigate the interactions among financial futures, private lives, public duties, and spiritual cores. It is our good fortune that Valpo has taken the initiative to create the Journal of Values Based Leadership and advance understanding of ethical and moral leadership.*

*This journal will serve as a valuable resource for business leaders, academics and students in their pursuit of integrity, creditability and morality. The JVBL will inform and inspire its readers. I congratulate the JVBL on its inaugural issue and look forward to future publications.*

*Sincerely, Richard G. Lugar, United States Senator*

His altruistic leadership and warm presence will be greatly missed.

– *Elizabeth F.R. Gingerich*