

House Republican Press Release

August 20, 2007  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

**House Republican Leader Lawrence F. Cafero Jr. on the passing of  
State Rep. Richard O. Belden of Shelton**



“It is with deep sadness and a profound sense of loss that we learned of the passing of our friend and colleague, Dick Belden. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wonderful wife Bert and the Belden family.

The City of Shelton and the entire state of Connecticut have lost an incredible leader and we have all lost a true friend. Anyone whose life was touched by Dick appreciated his trademark wisdom and wit, his quick smile and laughter.

As the Dean of the House – Dick was the longest serving member in the history of the Connecticut State House of Representatives – we all relied on his institutional memory, but just as importantly his innate sense of fairness and respect for the legislative process. As the new leader of the House Republicans his advice and sage guidance to me were invaluable.

The kindness he exhibited to all, and his sense of what was right, will be sorely missed.

Men and women come and go in their service to the Connecticut General Assembly but few if any will have had the tenure and effectiveness or command universal respect as Dick Belden.”