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THE REGISTER CITIZEN

Opinion: Len Fasano: A unique man

By Edward L. Marcus
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Photo: Brian A. Pounds / Hearst Connecticut Media
Senate Minority Leader Len Fasano, R-North Haven, attends the opening session of the state legislature in Hartford, Conn. on Wednesday, February 05, 2020.

I have known Sen. Len Fasano literally from the day he was born. His father, Len Fasano Sr., was a doctor who was my friend, doctor and part of a tennis foursome on Saturdays that consisted of Len Sr., his brother, Judge Roland Fasano, Tim Norbeck and myself. Tim was the president of the State Medical Society at the time and now lives in the Naples area of Florida. Len Sr. passed away a number of years ago and was a gifted athlete, a great doctor and a person who had an inexhaustible zest and joy for life.

Len Jr. has great genes and has inherited his father's good nature, athleticism and love of life. Lenny could have been a Democrat as easily as he became a Republican. He is a true centrist but has never been stuck on a party label. Doing the right thing has always been his mantra.

I remember when Len was running for probate judge as a Republican, in the '90s, at the same time as I served as the Democratic state chairman. I went to an event for Len and was the

featured speaker. Len did not win that election but amazingly enough I did not take any flak for supporting him. People do get the concept of friendship over party and Len is the type of person who you would automatically do that for without even debating the issue in your own mind.

Friendship over party is a value that remains needed today. The good of the state versus the good of the party is another value that often seems lacking. Len understands that and has always used those values as a guide to his actions. He always has put the good of the state above political party.

The state of Connecticut has lost a major resource in Len not seeking another term in the Senate.

There are other people of stature in the state legislature, of course. I think of Sen. Marty Looney and all the years that he has spent giving to the people of Connecticut. I think of Themis Klarides, Matt Ritter, soon to be speaker, and current Speaker Joe Aresimowicz. But Len has a special combination of being articulate, charismatic and friendly and has that innate ability to ethically play the cards dealt.

He made himself into a political powerhouse and I do not believe for one second that he is quitting politics. He's just not running for another term in the state Senate. Len has been around too long to just leave the political scene and my bet is that he will be a force in Republican politics of the future — including guiding the party to make the right choice in 2022.

This is by no means a “Goodbye to Len” commentary but, rather, my offer of kudos for a great job and welcome to the next phase of your life. It may be even more fun than the chapter you are closing.

Edward L. Marcus is former chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee in Connecticut and former State Senate majority leader.