



## **WAYNE STENEHJEM TRIBUTE**

**January 29, 2022**

**To engage with someone as a politician and also a friend is a remarkable thing.**

**Wayne Stenehjem was both to many and First Nations Women's Alliance honors his life amidst our grief and profound sense of loss.**

**As a young legislator in 1979, Rep Stenehjem was a prime sponsor of North Dakota's first domestic violence statute. It created a protection order process that provided legal protections for battered women without their first having to file for divorce.**

**He continued to support protections for domestic violence and sexual assault victims, and victims of all crimes, during his long tenure as Attorney General.**

**Most recently, he established the ND Human Trafficking Task Force, which he chaired.**

**His consistent, humble presence conveyed the authority of his office to those participating in events large and small. He not only supported causes but affirmed the people doing the work on the ground.**

**Without him, victim rights advocacy in North Dakota would have been more difficult, and our progress slower.**

**We often asked for more than he could give. But we never stopped asking, and he never stopped listening.**

**Thank you, Attorney General Stenehjem, Wayne, for being our champion and our friend.**