

Senator had Jim Caley on speed dial

It's not often a U.S. senator gives a eulogy for a Clark County person.

But that is what happened recently when **Maria Cantwell** spoke at the memorial service for **Jim Caley**, who died Nov. 8, just two days shy of his 67th birthday.

Caley was well-known for years of service to the Democratic Party of Clark County. A certified public accountant by trade, he was also a former Clark College trustee, served for 27 years on the board of Columbia River Mental Health Services and for years on the state Board of Accountancy.



Jim Caley

Cantwell, who was listed as "friend" in the service program, said Caley had been her financial and political adviser for 25 years. She sits on the Senate Finance Committee, and she said often a group of tax lawyers would be in her office, trying to convince her to back a bill.

She said she often called Caley, put him on speaker phone, and asked him how the proposal would play in Vancouver.

"And Jim usually put those lawyers to shame," she told the overflow crowd.

She said her staff often called Caley for counsel and he always told them what was in the best interests of Clark County's residents and businesses.

Many influential Clark County Democrats, past and present, were at the service, and Clark County native **Denny Heck** was the officiant.

Caley schooled this reporter on how politics works in the early 1980s.

I asked how he happened to be appointed to the Clark College board.

He replied, "I campaigned for (former governor) **Dixy Lee Ray** and she said, 'What do you want?' And I said, 'I want Clark College.'"

—*Dave Kern*