

ALUMNI IN POLITICS*

The February 1983 *Coffin Corner* mentioned that Jack Kemp and Ed Rutkowski of the 1968 Buffalo Bills were in politics. The next main brought this from Rick Korch, Public Relations Director for NFL Alumni (and P.F.R.A. member):

"Enclosed please find a copy of the NFL Alumni's *Legends* magazine for 1983.

"A sidebar to a story I wrote on Jack Kemp lists all of the former pro football players who have gone into politics. The list was compiled last summer with the help of Joe Horrigan and Jim Campbell."

Nobody can quite explain the reason, but more pro football players have gone into politics than pros from all the other sports combined. At least 18 have spent time in public service at a high level. Baseball and basketball, in contrast, claim only four each.

There are notable exceptions, of course, such as former pro basketball players Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Morris Udall.

The roster of Alumni in politics:

NFL ALUMNI, PRO TEAMS, POLITICAL POSITIONS

Dick Anderson [Mia 1968-77] Florida State Senate 1979-1983

Nick Buoniconti [Bos 1962-68; Mia 1969-76] Dade County (FL) Democratic Party Chairman 1982 to present*

Chet Chesney [ChiB 1939-40] U.S. House of Representatives 1948-50; Cook County (IL) Committeeman 1960-72

Ted Connolly [SF 1954, 1956-62; Cle 1963] Commissioner, Port of Oakland 1970-82; Member of Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid 1982 to present*

Lavern Dilweg [Mil 1926; GB 1927-34] U.S. House of Representatives 1943-45

Bill Dudley [Pit 1942, 1945-46; Det 1947-49; Was 1950-51, 1953] Virginia General Assembly 1966-1974

Winfield Kirkpatrick Denton [Eva 1922] 8-time U.S. Congressman

Jack Kemp [Pit 1957; NYG 1959; LA/SD 1960-62; Buf 1962-69] U.S. House of Representatives 1971 to present*

Edward King [Buf 1948-49; Bal 1950] Governor of Massachusetts 1979-83

Yale Lary [Det 1952-53, 1956-65] Texas State Legislature 1959-62

Hank Lauricella [Dal 1952] Louisiana State Senate 1964 to present*

Arnold Morgado [KC 1977-80] Hawaii House of Representatives 1983 to present*

Mike Nixon [Pit 1935; Bkn 1942] Pennsylvania House of Representatives 1949-50

Ed Rutkowski [Buf 1963-68] Erie County (NY) Executive 1979 to present*

Bob St. Clair [SF 1953-63] Mayor of Daly City (CA) 1960-61; San Mateo County (CA) Board of Supervisors 1966-74

Pete Schabarum [SF 1951, 1953-54] Los Angeles County Supervisor 1972 to present*

Mario Tonelli [ChiC 1940] Cook County (IL) Commissioner, 8 years

Byron (Whizzer) White [Pit 1938; Det 1940-41] Deputy U.S. Attorney General 1961-62; U.S. Supreme Court Justice 1962 to present*

* - As of 1983

Note: Former Seattle receiver Steve Largent, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives as an Oklahoma Congressman in 1994.