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**TRIBUTE TO THE LATE WALTER J. DUNFEY -- (BY J.W. MCQUAID) (Extension of Remarks - September 14, 1989)**

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**HON. CHUCK DOUGLAS**

**in the House of Representatives**

*THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1989*

* Mr. DOUGLAS. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to express my sadness on the recent death of Walter J. Dunfey, a prominent and powerful public figure from New Hampshire.
* Walter was thoroughly committed to public service through charities and State and national politics. He was also tremendously successful in domestic and international business, contributing even more to New Hampshire's communities.
* His brother Dick and I served together on the New Hampshire Superior Court. I know he and their family will miss Walter very much. The loss of such a strong, able, and dedicated public figure will be felt very deeply.
* I would like to submit for the **Record**an obituary from the Boston Globe on September 12, 1989, and an editorial from the Union Leader, Manchester, NH, on September 13, 1989.

**[FROM THE BOSTON GLOBE]**

Walter James Dunfey of the international hotel family, a power in the Democratic Party and a man known for his public service and philanthropies, died at 57 yesterday in Massachusetts General Hospital. The cofounder of Dunfey Hotels, which he helped build into the world-wide company now known as Omni Hotels, died of complications from an aneurysm.

Mr. Dunfey, who lived in Rye, N.H., was prominent in Democratic politics at the national regional and local levels. It was from his office at the Carpenter Hotel in Manchester, N.H., that Sen. John F. Kennedy, a fellow liberal Democrat with Irish roots, launched his presidential campaign in 1960.

As a member of the Democratic National Committee's Hunt Commission, which examined the presidential primary system, Mr. Dunfey is widely credited with playing a leading role in preserving the first-in-the-nation status of the New Hampshire presidential primary.

Mr. Dunfey also served on the Democratic National Committee's Business Council, as well as its convention site selection committee.

On the New Hampshire state level, Mr. Dunfey was instrumental in the Democratic successes of the 1960s and 1970s, acting in fund-raising and advisory roles to candidates. He was a supporter of, and adviser to, the late New Hampshire Gov. Hugh Gallen. Few Democratic candidates attempted major campaigns without his advice and counsel.

Born in Lowell, one of the 12 children of Leroy W. and Catherine Manning Dunfey, Mr. Dunfey attended St. Patrick's School and Keith Academy in Lowell, and the University of New Hampshire in Durham.

Mr. Dunfey and his seven brothers, whose grandfather emigrated from western Ireland around the turn of the century, built a hotel and restaurant empire on a humble start at a Hampton Beach clam stand.

The Dunfeys operated the Statler Hotel and the restored Berkshire Place in New York, as well as the Ambassador East in Chicago, the Shoreham in Washington and the Marquette Inn in Minneapolis. The Parker House in Boston was renovated and restored to profitability by the Dunfeys in the 1970s.

In 1987, he and three of his brothers, John, Gerald and Robert, formed a new family business, the Dunfey Brothers Capital Group, a venture capital and investment company. He continued his involvement in the hotel industry and most recently was involved in some of Ireland's most luxurious hotels, Ashford Castle, Dromoland Castle and the Hotel Sceilig.

Mr. Dunfey and four of his brothers also founded the New England Circle, which provides a forum for speakers on a wide range of social and political issues.

Celebrated for his wit, wisdom, vigor and vision, Mr. Dunfey was active in a broad range of public services. He was the founder and a national director and treasurer of the New England chapter of the American Ireland Fund, a charitable organization dedicated to preserving Irish culture and finding peaceful solutions in Northern Ireland. This year, he and his brothers established the Dunfey Family Fund for Ireland, to direct the family's substantial charitable commitment to Ireland.

In New Hampshire, Dunfey cofounded the Greater Portsmouth Charitable Foundation. He was a past president and current vice chairman of the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, a statewide community foundation overseeing a variety of charitable trusts and endowed funds in New Hampshire.

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**[FROM THE UNION LEADER]**

**(BY J.W. MCQUAID)**

Walter Dunfey was a big, gentle, compassionate man who had an Irishman's gift for gab and an Irishman's tender heart.

Dunfey died Sunday, much too young at age 57. His passing is a loss, both to those who knew him and to any in New Hampshire and the nation who appreciate a doer, a participator, an active player in the great game of life.

He seemed to us an unfailingly courteous and hospitable man. While these are qualities necessary to the hotel business in which the Dunfey family prospered, they were qualities that Walter Dunfey would have exuded had he never set foot in Lamies Tavern in Hampton, the Sheraton Wayfarer in Bedford, or the Parker House in Boston.

Dunfey's was a powerful voice in the Democratic Party, yet it will be a telling mark of the man that, in the tributes that will surely be paid to him in the coming days, many will come from political foes.

Dunfey enjoyed his politics and the good fight. He admired all those who were, like him, willing to play the game hard, fair and square; afterwards, there was no personal animus.

New Hampshire, on many levels, is much the poorer for the passing Walter Dunfey. Our condolences go out to his family.