

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the dedication ceremony of Canan Commons on November 4, 2011, honoring former Muncie Mayor, Dan Canan. Here is my tribute to this great leader, which was read by a member of my staff at the ceremony:

"Mayor McShurley, former Mayor Canan, and distinguished guests:

"Although I regret that I could not be in Muncie to celebrate with you today, I am humbled to have this opportunity to honor a man whose legacy will truly be felt by Muncie and the great state of Indiana for years to come. For those of you who know Dan Canan, you know of his tremendous dedication to Muncie.

"Born and raised in this community, Dan's life is an example of service and integrity. Many of you have known Dan since the days of Canan's Pharmacy, which was located just steps from here. Not only was Canan's Pharmacy a successful small business, it was a community staple – literally a place 'where everybody knows your name.' After successfully owning and managing the pharmacy for fifteen years, Dan answered the tug on his heart to serve Muncie in a bigger way and decided to run for mayor of his hometown.

"When he took office in January of 1996, the City of Muncie faced \$9 million in debt, but in a mere three years, Dan was able to reestablish Muncie's financial integrity by getting debt-free and operating under a balanced budget. He went on to lead a revival of the City of Muncie, the local economy, and in particular the downtown area. Under his leadership, the first new building was constructed on Walnut Street since the 1970's, and countless new apartment buildings, restaurants, shops, and special downtown events drew thousands of people to the area. In fact, it was his vision that led to the development of the downtown roundabout and the green space that we are dedicating today.

"While Dan's contributions to the Muncie community cannot be adequately recognized, I would contend that one of his greatest legacies remains the acquisition of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI Grants, which allowed for the construction of Millennium Place just a few blocks away. These beautiful homes replaced the old dilapidated Munsyana Homes Housing Complex originally built in the late 1930's. In their stead, Millennium Place was erected, filled with brightly colored homes and bringing with it a new atmosphere of

neighborhood community.

"As you all know, Dan was the first – and only – Muncie Mayor to be elected to three consecutive four-year terms. During his tenure, the City of Muncie was named Community of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, a testimony to his leadership in economic development. His years of service were marked by integrity, fiscal responsibility, and a unique ability to work with many different people groups for the greater good of the community he loves. Today, I can think of no more appropriate honor, than to dedicate Canan Commons in the midst of the downtown that Dan worked so hard to revitalize.

"We are told not to 'become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.' The Muncie community will forever be grateful that Mayor Dan Canan did not become weary in doing good, and that he has served his community so faithfully. With the dedication of Canan Commons today, we show him just a small measure of gratitude, and wish him great success as he continues to make a difference in this community and around the state of Indiana."