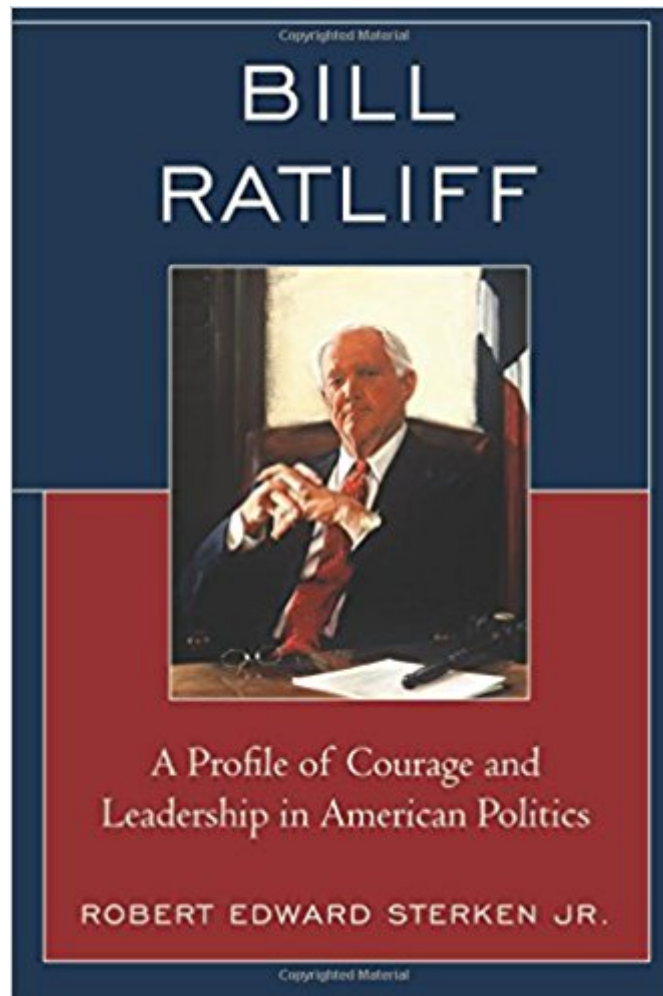




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Bill Ratliff: A Profile Of Courage And Leadership In American Politics



Synopsis

This book is a celebration of American values as shown by former Texas State Senator and politician Bill Ratliff, a leader in Texas politics who wrote school finance law, major Ethics reform law, and Texas tort reform law. This story will inspire students to service, politicians to greatness, and American citizens to rethink narrow partisanship.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bill Ratliff is an inspiration to all who serve in government, and to all Americans, for his principled and bipartisan leadership, and his willingness to make the difficult and unpopular decisions necessary for good governance. Bill Ratliff showed great courage when he put his long and distinguished career of service at risk for the principle of fair and democratic elections which are the heart and soul of a successful democracy. [He] has demonstrated political courage worthy of our gratitude. (Caroline Kennedy, announcing Gov. Ratliff as winner of the 2005 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award)Bob Sterken's political biography of Texas State Senator and Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff is a great read. Those who watch Texas politics closely always liked and respected Senator Ratliff even though most saw only his public profile. Sterken's fine book explores the personal and social bases of the character that made Bill Ratliff such a force for common sense and decency in an often tumultuous Texas politics. This book helps us all understand Bill Ratliff and his state better. (Cal Jillson, Southern Methodist University)When Governor Bill Ratliff began his illustrious political career in 1988, Texas was dominated by the

Democratic Party. When he left public office in 2004, Texas was dominated by the Republican Party. Robert Sterken's excellent book provides a fascinating review of Governor Ratliff's illustrious career, and, in doing so, allows the reader to witness the transformation and evolution of partisan politics and public policy in the Lone Star State over the past thirty years from the perspective of one of the Texas GOP's preeminent unabashed centrist conservatives. (Mark P. Jones, Rice University) Bill Ratliff's life and career are fantastic demonstrations of the value of integrity and courage. Sterken has gifted us all an inspiring read filled with valuable lessons. (Robert Duncan, Texas Tech University) This book is an excellent portrait of my good friend and mentor, Bill Ratliff. Bill is a true statesman who has always recognized the importance of governing for the greater good of all Texans. He has brought people together to solve complex issues facing our state government and worked with members based on their ability, rather than whether they had an "R" or a "D" behind their name. The humility and type of leadership he demonstrated during his years as a senator and Lt. Governor are sorely needed across our nation today. He is, without a doubt, one of the greatest public servants in Texas's history. (Rodney Ellis, Texas State Senator)

Robert Sterken is associate professor of political science at the University of Texas at Tyler.

While I was a constituent of Senator Bill Ratliff, we belonged to different political parties so I knew little about him when he was elected. I soon learned that he would represent the best interest of all his constituents with a deep and thorough understanding of their needs and of the issues facing his senatorial district. Robert Sterken demonstrates the same deep and thorough understanding of his subject and provides a thoughtful and considered view of Senator Ratliff's remarkable leadership and character. His book provides an excellent look at how government works when at its best and is a primer for those seeking to understand or enter public service. Ron Gleason
Tyler, Texas

Our Professor, AKA the author of this book, required us to read this during the semester. I ABSOLUTELY LOVED THIS BOOK. It is an excellent legacy and everything about the book is well written. We got to see one of Bill's sons during our senior seminar class last fall and he was also talking about his father. It is really well written and there was really never a time where I felt bored while I read this. I can really picture everything that is going on in my mind including every emotion, every thought, every historical event, every political decision. Very credible book with the extreme amount of citation, making the book all the more interesting and believable. I always wanted to know

the story behind the person who made our engineering school the way it is today and this was a really good opportunity.

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