

About Peter

Peter Miguel Camejo, a civil rights leader, socially responsible investment pioneer, and magnanimous caballero for third party politics in the US, peacefully passed away early Saturday morning, September 13, 2008, at his home in Folsom, CA with his wife Morella at his side -- only days after completing his autobiography.

Peter was a student leader, civil rights advocate, leader in the socially responsible investment industry, founding Progressive Asset Management, Inc., and author of books on investment and history including *Racism, Revolution, Reaction, 1861-1877: The Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction*; *California Under Corporate Rule*; and his recent book, *The SRI Advantage: Why Socially Responsible Investing Has Outperformed Financially*.

Peter used his eloquence, sharp wit, and barnstorming bravado to blaze a trail for 21st century third party politics in the US. He was a third party candidate for state and national office, making three gubernatorial runs in California as a Green, including one in the 2002 election when he earned 5.3 percent of the vote. In the 2003 recall election, he debated Arnold Schwarzenegger, and in the 2004 Presidential election, he was Ralph Nader's running mate as an independent. Among the many causes Peter forcefully championed were a living wage, healthcare for all, and making the US the world leader in renewable energy.

He was also a passionate advocate for electoral reform, pressing for proportional representation and instant run-off voting (allows voters to rank their top choices) in an effort to overturn the "200-year-old dysfunctional money-dominated winner take-all system that disrespects the will of the people." Peter was a politically courageous champion of the downtrodden and mistreated of the entire Western Hemisphere. Everyone who met Peter, talked with Peter, worked with Peter, or argued with Peter, will miss the passing of a great American. - *A modified version of "Remembering Peter Camejo" by Ralph Nader*

Peter was a prominent figure in the youth rebellion of the 1960s, active in the student, civil rights and anti-Vietnam-war movements. He defended the Cuban Revolution and Malcolm X, and he marched with Dr. Martin Luther King at Selma. In the mid-1960s Peter became a major figure in the youth struggles centered at the University of California, Berkeley, and as such he was singled out by then Governor Ronald Reagan as one of the "most dangerous men" in the state. A leading socialist, Peter was the 1976 Presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party. He was well-known as a magnetic speaker during the 1960s and 1970s, and captured the imagination of many young people eager for fundamental social change. He worked closely with socialists in other countries and traveled all over the world to exchange ideas, paying particular attention to Spain and Latin America. - *Notes from Gus Horowitz, friend and colleague of Peter in the Socialist Workers Party, 1960-1980.*



Peter Miguel Camejo

December 31, 1939 - September 13, 2008



**An Inspiring Champion for
Civil Rights and Social Justice**

Quotes from Peter's Autobiography

Help from a high source when the CIA tried to have him arrested in Colombia: "Cyrus Vance told an assistant, 'Get the Colombian government on the phone right now and ask them why they are trying to arrest Peter Camejo.' That call must have shaken up the Colombians. How could I have the Secretary of State of the United States calling Colombia on my behalf? "

Meeting the kidnapers of Argentine Fiat executive Oberdán Sallustro: "I made a short and very direct plea that Sallustro not be killed and instead be set free. I agreed that he was probably a terrible person who had committed many abuses to workers but that kidnapping and killing him would end up hurting the struggle, not helping. . . . As it turns out the police discovered where Sallustro was being held and tried to free him. The ERP members holding Sallustro shot him dead and three of the four escaped."

About Progressive Asset Management, the company he founded: "We gradually developed a fantastic group of people, each with a special interest in environmental, social, or political issues. The assets we were involved with reached over a billion dollars in the middle of the 2000 decade."

About his 2004 campaign for Vice President with Ralph Nader: "When the campaign ended I felt really good, that I had had a chance in my life to be part of something like defending the Liberty Party in 1840 when only some thousands voted against slavery. . . . I had stood with Ralph Nader opposing the hypocrisy and capitulation of so many, even of many of my old friends."

Looking to the future: "One area where human knowledge appears to be nearly frozen is how to socially organize society to stop the destruction of the planet, to end the massive inequalities that leave the majority of our species living in utter poverty with huge numbers dying needlessly from hunger and diseases. . . . This contradiction between the potential of human society, based on knowledge and productivity, and its reality is the most striking feature of our time."

Program

Peter Camejo Memorial, Sunday, November 23, 2008

Claudette Bégin, Chairperson

Morella Camejo, Welcome from Peter's family

Antonio Camejo, Brother; CEO, Portfolio Resources Group

Gus Horowitz, Friend and colleague in the Socialist Workers Party, 1960-1980

Alan Hicks, Friend; Director of Research, Progressive Asset Management 1995-1997

Dr. Agha Saeed, National Chair, American Muslim Alliance Taskforce on Civil Rights and Elections

Cathy Cartier and Eric Leenson, Founders with Peter of Progressive Asset Management

Martin Sanchez, Consul General of The Bolivarian Republic Of Venezuela in San Francisco

Gayle McLaughlin, Mayor, Richmond (Green Party)

Kalman Stein, CEO, Earthshare

Ralph Nader, Citizen

Nativo Lopez, National President, Mexican American Political Association (MAPA)

Donna Warren, Lt. Governor running mate in 2002 and 2006

Matt Gonzalez, 2008 Vice Presidential candidate; Former Chair, SF Board of Supervisors

Todd Chretien, Green Party candidate for U.S. Senator in 2006

Barbara Becnel, Founder of Stanley Tookie Williams Legacy Network

Alicia Mendoza, Co-MC of May 1, 2006 Immigration Rights March

Ramon Cardona, Deputy, Salvadoran General Assembly

Leslie Evans, Editor, Peter's autobiography

Open Mike
