

The Record

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OPINION

Letters to the Editor

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The voice of Bob Hattoy

Bob Hattoy's prodigious voice fell silent this week.

For 15 years, Bob spoke for people with AIDS and for LGBT people to political decision-makers at all levels, telling them over and over again that our government's AIDS policies consigned him and millions of others to an almost certain death from a preventable disease.

Bob, like many activists of his generation, cut his political teeth in the anti-war movement that brought the immoral war in Vietnam to its grinding halt. But even while Bob was in the streets demonstrating against the war in Vietnam, he was also knocking on doors for political candidates he supported.

Bob Hattoy represented the best of any political movement: the capacity to act as an outside agitator and an effective inside player. He punctuated his years in the Clinton administration with pithy commentary on the shortcomings of Clintonian policies, even while he advocated with colleagues to go farther faster.

We've lost a great leader, a tireless advocate, and a man whose personal ambitions were never more important than the social justice of which he dreamed.

Matt Foreman, executive director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, New York City