March 13, 2014


Gainesville—Former Florida Gov. and U.S. Sen. Bob Graham wishes to issue the following statement on the life and legacy of former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew:

“Reubin Askew was an extraordinary Floridian and an even better human being. He changed the trajectory of the state for the better by opening the doors of government to all Floridians, regardless of their race, ethnicity or gender. While many public leaders proclaim to serve at the will of the people, Reubin Askew lived that adage. His decisions were always grounded in what he believed was in the best interest of Floridians and for future generations. His people-centered perspective combined with an unusual capacity to see over the horizon to the major challenges facing the state is what made him a true statesman and a remarkable leader.

Gov. Askew’s vision for a better Florida was evident in his policies which focused on an independent judiciary, racial justice, educational advancement, environmental protection, and integrity and transparency in government.

As Floridians we are blessed to have had Reubin Askew among us. Florida is a better place thanks to his wisdom and leadership.

Despite the many contributions and the lasting legacy that Gov. Askew leaves behind, we still feel tremendous sadness at his passing.

Adele and I extend our condolences to Donna Lou and his family and to the millions of Floridians who were positively impacted by his distinguished service.”