

LEVIN CENTER *FOR OVERSIGHT AND DEMOCRACY*



With the death of Eugene Driker, the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy has lost a wise, steady, and committed leader. Eugene was not only instrumental in the founding of the Levin Center, but he played an enormously valuable role in our development and growth. Serving as the Chair of our Advisory Board for over seven years, Eugene guided our program choices, helped integrate the Levin Center into the Wayne State community, led our fundraising, and touched us all with his kindness, humor, candor, and warmth.

Eugene's boundless energy, extraordinary skill with words, and deep commitment to public accountability and democracy were an inspiration to the Levin Center community. While in June of 2022 he had stepped down from chairing the Center's Advisory Board, Eugene continued counseling and supporting the Levin Center right up to the last few weeks of his life.

We will not forget his suggestion that, as part of a gathering of visiting scholars from across the nation in 2018, we provide a tour of Detroit. Serving as the official tour bus guide, Eugene proudly showed off both the improvements and challenges facing his beloved hometown. Many of the scholars thought it was the best part of our conference.

Eugene was a long-time valued adviser and close friend of the late Senator Carl Levin. We are grateful for Eugene's help in ensuring that the Levin Center fully honors the senator's legacy.