



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

For immediate release

## **Councillor Bill Risby – a Town Hall great and ‘father’ of the nuclear free movement**

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) fondly remembered its Chair, Councillor Bill Risby, who sadly died recently, at his funeral at St Dunstan’s Church in his ward of Moston in Manchester.

Councillor Bill Risby proposed the resolution on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1980, which committed Manchester City Council to establish the nuclear free movement. Manchester City Council declared itself the world’s first ‘nuclear free zone’ and a red commemorative plaque proudly rests on the front entrance of Manchester Town Hall to this day.

Councillor Risby was a real champion of the nuclear free movement throughout its near 30-year history and was a passionate supporter of the elimination of nuclear weapons and the end of the nuclear power cycle. He was also heavily involved in the Mayors for Peace movement, representing Manchester City Council and the NFLA at moving events in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, at the United Nations in New York and most recently in Ypres, Belgium.

Councillor Risby was re-elected as Chair of the NFLA in December 2008 and was leading the organisation in its opposition to the prospects for a new nuclear build programme in England and Wales. He was also planning to represent the NFLA at the upcoming Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference at the United Nations in New York as part of a Mayors for Peace delegation.

The NFLA Secretariat has been receiving fulsome tributes to Councillor Bill Risby from all over the world. The NFLA concurs with the views of the News Editor of the Manchester Evening News, who called Bill Risby a ‘Town Hall great’.

At Bill’s funeral his contribution to the nuclear free movement was an important part of the service and the NFLA have provided its sincere condolences to Bill’s family. The NFLA are also looking to develop a ‘NFLA Bill Risby Memorial Lecture’ as a lasting memorial to his legacy.

Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, President of Mayors for Peace, paid this tribute to Bill:

“Bill was a very special Mayors for Peace. As Lord Mayor and as a Councillor, he consistently supported our organisation and our movement. Mayors for Peace are grateful for his tremendous contribution to us and to our common cause. Please accept our heartfelt condolences and know that he was loved and will be missed on the other side of the world.”

NFLA Chair, Councillor George Regan, added:

“Bill was a great advocate of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities and a dear friend who I will greatly miss. His warmth and generosity was what made the man and he was a rock of support to the nuclear free movement for the past 30 years. We will carry on Bill’s legacy and continue campaigning for his dearest wish – the promotion of clean non-nuclear energy and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Yesterday was a sad day for the NFLA movement, but the tributes for the man show how important the cause for a nuclear free world is. Bill would want us to continue to strive for that and that is what we will do.”

Ends

**Further information: Councillor George Regan, NFLA Chair 07931 964524**

**Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930196**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**