

(WASHINGTON)--- Congressman Allen West (FL-22) released this statement today on the death of former Florida Governor, Claude R. Kirk, Jr.:

"My wife, Angela and I send our regards to the family of former Florida Governor Claude Kirk, Jr., who sadly passed away today. In 1966, Governor Kirk became the first Republican elected Governor in Florida since Reconstruction. He carried our state through a turbulent time in history and was a leader who governed on values and principle.

Governor Kirk was a mentor to me and I will never forget his generosity, graciousness, and charismatic personality. The State of Florida and our nation are better because of his service on the battlefields of World War II and Korea as well as his service in the state capitol in Tallahassee. Floridians have lost one of the greatest leaders ever to govern the state of Florida."

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