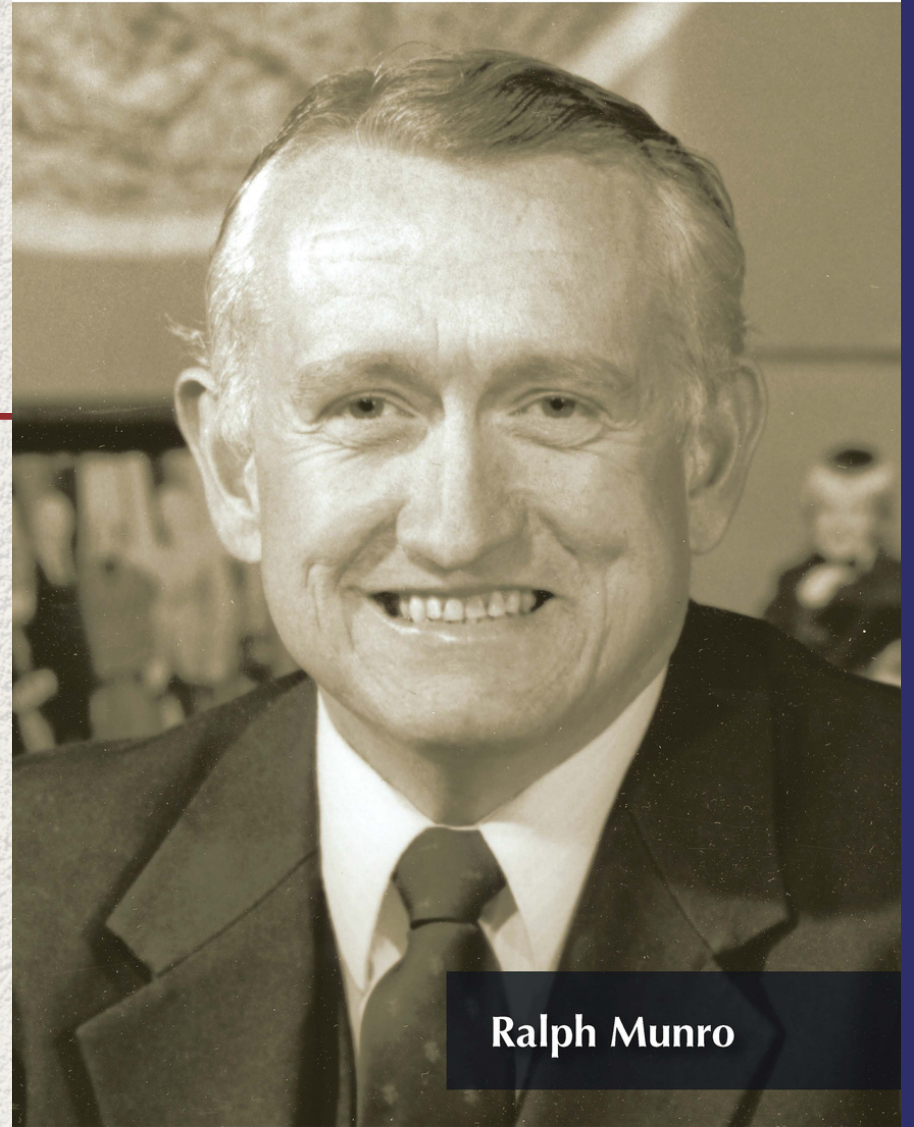


Ralph Munro

Ralph Munro was elected Washington's secretary of state in 1980, and served five terms through 2001. In his 20s, while working as a volunteer with disabled children, Munro caught the eye of Gov. Dan Evans and became his aide on issues ranging from volunteerism and education to social services. Under Evans, he coordinated efforts to resettle homeless Vietnamese refugees in Washington state. He worked with Evans and then-Attorney General Slade Gorton to prohibit the capture of orca on Puget Sound.

A pioneering figure in the state's disability-rights movement, Munro was a powerful advocate for Washington's anti-discrimination law. As secretary of state, he published the first Voters' Guide in Braille.

Munro used his office to strengthen ties with other countries by promoting international trade, particularly with Japan. Munro also was a leader in trail development statewide, and was architect of the state's purchase of the Milwaukee Road rail corridor, now under development as the Palouse-to-Cascades Trail.



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