

## View from Margaret Thatcher

In one of the terms of President Ronald Reagan, leaders of seven industrial nations were meeting at the White House to discuss economic policy.

During the meeting, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau strongly upbraided British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, telling her that she was all wrong and that her policies would not work. She stood there in front of him with her head up, listening until he was finished. Then she walked away.

Reagan went up to her and said, “Maggie, he should never have spoken to you like that. He was out of line, just entirely out of line. Why did you let him get away with that?”

Thatcher looked at Reagan and answered, “A woman must know when a man is being simply childish.”

Thatcher, called *The Iron Lady*, served as prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990 – the first woman to hold that office and the longest-serving British prime minister of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

That story surely typified Margaret Thatcher. She appeared to have no doubts about herself or her beliefs – and she was absolutely secure in her leadership as a result. That is the case for all great leaders.



Secure leaders are able to believe in others because they believe in themselves. They aren't arrogant; they know their own strengths and weaknesses and respect themselves. When their people perform well, they don't feel threatened.

They go out of their way to bring the best people together and then build them up so that they will perform at the highest level.

And when a secure leader's team succeeds, it brings him or her great joy – seeing that as the highest compliment to be received.

My guess is that you, too – as a leader in Life Care and Century Park – feel that way about your team.

– Beecher Hunter