

Obituaries

Former state Rep. Dick Kostohryz, 64, dies

Former state Rep. Dick Kostohryz, 64, of North St. Paul, died of a heart attack Thursday.

First elected to office in 1973 in a special election, the DFLer served his district until he lost in 1990 to Independent-Republican Dennis Newinski.

"He was a good legislator and he represented that district in North St. Paul very well," said Rep. Jim Rice, DFL-Minneapolis. "I remember particularly his concern for working people."

Rice said Kostohryz was decent to work with even when they were on different sides of an issue. That was the case in the early 1980s when Kostohryz pushed through a bill that led to horse racing and gambling in Minnesota.



Dick Kostohryz

Kostohryz was chairman of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Gaming committees. A Navy veteran who served during the Korean War, he was known as a strong ally of veterans. He was named Legislator of the Year several times by the state American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"He was a good friend to the veteran. He always helped us and always voted for veterans' legislation," said Lester Orton, a spokesman for the state Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Anytime we wanted to come up and talk to him, he was always there and he always listened."

Kostohryz's wife, Rosemary, said that was her husband's way — helping people was his favorite part of his job. "He went out of his way to help people," she said. "When people in his district called for help, he bent over backwards to help. He always took time, no matter when they called, at home, at night, in the office, no matter what."

But Kostohryz's family was at the top of the list of

his many priorities, she said. He juggled his time during the legislative session with working for 3M Co., where he worked for 37 years before retiring in the late 1980s. When defeated for reelection in 1990, he spent the extra time with his family. He and Rosemary traveled around the country, and took a trip to Europe last year. They would have been married 40 years in November.

Kostohryz is also survived by daughters Victoria Lemberger and Mary Kostohryz, both of St. Paul; Nancy Kostohryz, of Oakdale, and Paula Bristow, of North St. Paul; a son, Richard, of Oakdale; his mother, Mary, of White Bear Lake, and sisters Margaret Hipp, of Mesa, Ariz., and Betty Johans, of Oakdale. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Peter's Catholic Church in North St. Paul. Visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, with a parish vigil at 6:30 p.m. at the Mueller Mortuary Parkway Chapel, 835 Johnson Pkwy, St. Paul. Burial will be in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials to the North St. Paul Food Shelf or Minnesota Services for the Blind are suggested.