

Myrtle Cain, one of first women in Legislature, dies

Cain ✓

Associated Press

Myrtle A. Cain, one of the first four women to be elected to the Minnesota Legislature, died Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Cain, who was about 80, had lived in Minneapolis all her life. She had been a patient at Metropolitan Medical Center.

She was among four women elected to the Legislature in 1922 after ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920 gave women the right to vote. An active member of the old Farmer-Labor Party, she served one term and was defeated for reelection in 1924 by nine votes.

She introduced the first equal-rights bill for women in the House in 1923. "Of course, we got nowhere then," she recalled in a newspaper interview years later. "All kinds of terrible things were predicted."

She was a special guest of the Minnesota House and Senate when lawmakers ratified the Equal Rights Amendment in 1973.

She was active in the early labor movement and served as president of the Women's Trade Union of Minneapolis. During World War she



Myrtle Cain in 1973

served as labor relations director at the Twin Cities Arsenal, now the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant, in Arden Hills.

She also served on the staff of former Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn.

Until her death Cain lived in the same north Minneapolis house as when she served in the Legislature 57 years earlier.

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Former state legislator dies

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Her survivors include a brother, Frank, of San Francisco. A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 804 NE. Second St.

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