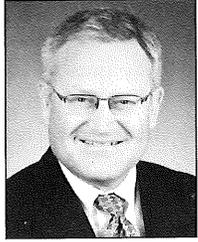


A brighter future

Mazorol plans to focus on budget, business

By Nick Busse

When Rep. Pat Mazorol (R-Bloomington) won his election in November, it was a bittersweet victory. Roughly a week earlier, he learned that his father had been diagnosed with stage-four cancer. Two days after the election, he died.



Rep. Pat Mazorol

Mazorol, who had planned to visit his parents in New Orleans the weekend after the election, didn't get to visit his father in time. But he did get to share the good news about his election with him over the phone.

"He knew about it, long distance. I was able to tell him ... so that was nice," he said.

Mazorol's arrival at the Legislature was a long time in coming. He made an unsuccessful bid for a Senate seat in 1982, and didn't run for public office again for 28 years. He led a successful career as a lawyer and a financial advisor, and last year he began a new job as senior vice president for university relations at Bethel University.

It's his position at Bethel, being around the state's "future leaders," that motivates him as a public servant, Mazorol said.

"I just think the next generation deserves to have a life as good or better than I've been able to enjoy," he said.

Mazorol worries that his daughters' generation will end up footing the bill for irresponsible fiscal policies. He's also concerned that the state's regulatory environment serves as a deterrent to

DISTRICT 41B

Population (2009 est.): 36,831

Largest City: Bloomington

County: Hennepin

Top Concern: Fiscal discipline

businesses, holding back job growth.

"We've got a terribly attractive state to live in, and I think people would like to live here," he said. "I think we just need to make sure we aren't doing other things to keep businesses away."

Mazorol, who spent much of his career in a "very regulated industry" (banking), said he hopes to bring his experience to bear in making the state a more appealing home to companies. He believes the future of the state depends on it.

"We can't be non-competitive and expect that we'll continue to have jobs for Minnesotans," he said.