

**Stern, Irving M.**



formerly of St. Louis Park, passed peacefully in Yuma, Arizona, on February 3, 2023 at 94. Born and raised in Milwaukee, Irv lived a life of extraordinary accomplishments, largely dedicated to helping others. After serving in the Army and defending Governor's Island in New York at the end of World War II, Irv moved to Chicago where he met his first wife, Phyllis Glicksberg. He was the co-founder of Nationwide Carriers, a trucking company that he moved to Minnesota in 1954 to avoid paying the vig on the docks in Chicago. Irv's business career transitioned from trucking to sales and service of semitrailers, to sales of truck equipment, then to sales of sanitation truck equipment, and, ultimately, to landfill management. In 1976, Irv decided to involve himself in local politics as something other than a donor. In his first run for office, Irv was elected Mayor of St. Louis Park, devoting himself to public service just to have fun and do good. He made numerous trips to Washington, D.C. in 1977 to meet with H.U.D. officials and break the logjam over funding to upgrade Highway 12 to I-394 and to develop what is now SLP's West End. As part of his successful negotiations, Irv obtained an agreement from H.U.D. to fund the HOV lanes between SLP and downtown, with the understanding that they would be used for light rail, another of Irv's passions, in the future. Nothing frustrated Irv more in his twilight years than his successors' failure to use the I-394 corridor for the light rail route. With the help of U.S. Senator Wendy Anderson, Irv was appointed to the Executive Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors,

serving with the mayors of the significantly larger New York and Los Angeles. In that capacity, in 1978 he was appointed by President Carter to the delegation that returned the Holy Crown of St. Stephen to Hungary. In 1979, Irv was elected to the Minnesota Senate, representing SLP and Golden Valley, and served as Vice-Chair of the Commerce Committee. Irv utilized his experience to focus on transportation, trade, and environmental issues and helped push through legislation converting abandoned railroad beds to public hiking and biking trails. After his retirement from elected office in 1983, Irv continued to serve the public by promoting international trade with Minnesota companies. In recognition of Irv's role driving the development of the World Trade Center Building in St. Paul, Governor Perpich appointed Irv Chair of the Board of the World Trade Center Executive Committee, tasked with introducing Minnesota to international trading partners. Irv traveled the globe extensively, establishing relationships throughout the World Trade Association community. A letter from Governor Ventura thanking Irv for hosting a banquet for a Minnesota trade mission to China and introducing the mission's participants to prominent Chinese trading partners, proudly hangs in Irv's bathroom in Yuma. Irv's passion for making connections for people conducting business all over the world kept him busy until his retirement. Irv was preceded in death by parents Sam Stern and Pearl Cohen, stepfather Harry D. Cohen, wife Phyllis, son Harlan, sister Toby Feigon, and brother-in-law Norm Glicksberg. Irv is survived by his wife Sandy Parker, sons Sam Stern (Deb) and Jordan Stern (Susan), daughter-in-law Amy Stern, stepdaughter Hali Richard (John); grandchildren Aron Stern (Angie McKay), Missy Kanuit (Jason), Phil Stern (Molly), Jason Stern (Caraleigh), Adam Stern (Arielle), Ellie James (Matthew), David Stern, Elliott Stern (Mackenzie), Joy Stern, and Lexi and Olivia Richard; great-grandchildren Theo and Flora Stern, Bennett, Miles, and Lucy James, and Leo Kanuit; sister-in-law Marion Glicksberg, many Feigon and

Glicksberg nieces and nephews, and beloved Katz and Stern family cousins. A private celebration of life will take place in Phoenix in November in honor of Senator Stern's 95th birthday. In recognition of his public service, the family asks that donations for scholarships be made in Irv's name to the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota (<https://www.hhh.umn.edu/giving>) in hopes of facilitating the education of public servants in the mold of Irving Stern.