

Obituaries

Minister, politician Emery Barrette dies

By Maureen M. Smith
Staff Writer

Emery Barrette, 62, a former Methodist minister, state politician and director of special programs at Hamline University in St. Paul, died of cancer Sunday at his home in Stillwater.

Barrette directed special programs at Hamline for many years before retiring last year. He worked as a liaison for the president and alumni.

"He was our greatest ambassador; we could have him go anywhere," said Dan Loritz, Hamline's vice president for university relations. "He was well-known amongst the alumni. He was just a good person to go out and tell people what was happening and also to get their feelings."

Barrette grew up on the East Side of St. Paul and graduated from Hamline in 1954. He earned a master's degree in divinity at Drew University in Madison, N.J., in 1957.

"He was into integrity and ethics in politics many years before it became fashionable," said his daughter, Michelle Barrette, of St. Paul. "When he ran for office in the 1960s, a minister in politics was unheard of. But he took his ministry into the real world and set an example."

He was a minister at United Methodist churches in Minnesota for 35 years and worked as a chaplain in the Ramsey County Juvenile Court and workhouse, his daughter said.

"I think it was kind of a nice combination of his ministry and his politi-

cal skills," she said. "He saw the needs that inmates and juveniles have."

Barrette was elected state representative from the East Side and served in 1967 and 1968. He was instrumental in helping establish criminal sentencing guidelines. He was elected to the state Senate in 1980.

"He was the only Republican to ever be elected from the East Side of St. Paul," Michelle Barrette said. "They elected a person that had been involved in their community, not just a party label."

From 1970 to 1980, Barrette was a member of the St. Paul school board. He worked on developing athletic and sports activities for girls.

"It took me skinning my knees on the sidewalk at junior high that got him to propose a playground and girls' sports," his daughter said. "The boys had their own field, and he could see that there was a need."

Besides his daughter, Barrette is survived by his wife, Audrey, and sons Grant Barrette, of White Bear Lake, and Scott Barrette, of St. Paul. Visitation services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Crestwood Park Mortuary, 1485 White Bear Av., St. Paul, and at 4 p.m. Wednesday at Arlington Hills United Methodist Church, 759 E. County Rd. B, Maplewood.