

Rep. Marvin Dauner . . .

Serving local folks top priority for parting member



As 10-year House veteran Rep. Marvin Dauner explained why this will be his last legislative term, one of his constituents passed by the office.

"You'll be sorely missed," he said.

It's not surprising that the folks back in District 9B in western Minnesota will miss Dauner (DFL-Hawley), a local farmer, who placed constituent services at the top of his legislative agenda since being elected in 1986.

"The thing I worked at the hardest was helping the people back home when they had a problem with government," he said.

At one time, for example, government agencies were creating a bureaucratic nightmare for a constituent whose son had died in Jamaica. But Dauner was instrumental in cutting through the governmental red tape to help the family.

Having unquestioned respect from members on both sides of the aisle, Dauner also is known for his bipartisanship.

"It doesn't matter if you're a Democrat or Republican. What counts is honesty, fairness, and who you are," said Dauner, expressing dismay over the fierce partisanship that has come to characterize modern politics.

Dauner's Democratic roots date to 1948, although others in his household were of a different political persuasion.

"Harry Truman impressed me so much that I became a Democrat, even though my parents were Republicans. I wanted to vote for him in November of '48, but my 21st birthday wasn't until the 4th of December."

Dauner married Shirley Jarvis of Glyndon,



Rep. Marvin Dauner

Noted achievements: Dauner ranks his contribution in helping to reform the workers' compensation laws as one of his major accomplishments. "Living in a district next to North Dakota made workers' compensation a very important issue for me. I'm very proud of the work I've done in that area," he said.

Dauner also worked hard to gain fairness in the tax system as vice chair of the Property Tax and Tax Increment Financing Division of the Taxes Committee. "It always made me feel good when I could help a constituent with an unjust ruling at the Department of Revenue."

Minn. in 1948. At that time, males under 21 years of age needed their parent's signature before a marriage license could be issued. Shirley often reminds her husband that he had to get a note from his parents to marry her. Women had only to be 18, giving Shirley the authority to make the decision on her own.

"I had to drive 20 miles over to Glyndon to see her," said Dauner, pointing out that he gladly used up his gas rations to do so. Glyndon was also the place where young Shirley gained skills in keeping an eye on the actions of legislators. She used to babysit an even younger Keith Langseth, who is now a member of the Minnesota Senate.

Dauner is quick to point out that Shirley is equally responsible for his success in the Legislature, referring to his marriage as one of the "greatest love stories of the century."

Shirley, and both of their mothers, always worked as a team on Dauner's elections, which included races for the local school board and a spot as a county commissioner. She recalled one of his first elections in which

out of a total of 105 votes cast, 102 went to Dauner. The mothers, in utter disbelief that someone could vote against "Marvin," were shocked that the vote was not unanimous.

Dauner served 12 years on the Clay County board before winning five elections to the House. "It's really been a privilege to serve here, especially knowing that only a handful of people have represented my area in the last 50 years," reflected Dauner.

So what does the future hold for Dauner? "More pinocle," he replied instinctively. "I also want to be more active in my church and spend more time with my three sons, two daughters, 14 grandchildren, and 2.5 great grandchildren" (There's one on the way.)

"The thing we're going to miss the most is all the wonderful people," said Dauner with Shirley agreeing. "We've been blessed with beautiful friends."

Although Dauner said he is not looking for more committee work, Shirley added, "Knowing Marvin, he'll get involved in something."

— Joel Larson

Constitutional Officers

Governor

ARNE CARLSON (R)
Room 130
State Capitol
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-3391
1-800-657-3717

Lieutenant Governor

JOANNE BENSON (R)
Room 130
State Capitol
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-3391

Secretary of State

JOAN ANDERSON GROWE (DFL)
Room 180
State Office Building
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-2803
Election Division: 215-1440
Open Appointments: 297-5845
Business Information: 296-2803
UCC: 297-9102

State Auditor

JUDITH DUTCHER (R)
525 Park St.
Suite 400
St. Paul 55103
(612) 296-2551

State Treasurer

MICHAEL A. McGRATH (DFL)
303 State Administration Building
50 Sherburne Ave.
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-7091

Attorney General

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY III (DFL)
Room 102
State Capitol
St. Paul 55155
(612) 296-6196
Consumer Division: 296-3353
1-800-657-3787