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Dale Erdahl, 73, farmer, legislator

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Dale Erdahl, a two-term Minnesota legislator in the 1970s, died last Monday in Sioux Falls, S.D. He was 73.

He was born near Frost, Minn., and attended a one-room grade school near Dell, Minn., with his cousin, Arlen Erdahl, whom he succeeded as a legislator from Faribault County in 1970. The cousins grew up on adjacent farms.

He graduated from Blue Earth, Minn., High School in 1949.

After attending the University of Minnesota and Augsburg College, he married Marion Bolstad in 1952. They farmed until 1976.

In 1970, he was elected from District 30A, which then included Faribault County plus part of Freeborn and Martin counties, succeeding Arlen Erdahl, who became secretary of state and later a U.S. congressman.



Dale Erdahl

As a legislator, Dale Erdahl was interested in agriculture, but he also served on the appropriations committee, where "you get a very broad view because everything that has a dollar sign comes to appropriations sooner or later," said Wendell Erickson of Hills, Minn., a former legislator who was Erdahl's roommate in St. Paul during some legislative sessions.

After losing a race for a third two-year term, Erdahl became an employment counselor for the state. "He got special satisfaction out of helping some of the immigrants find work," including refugees from Southeast Asia, his cousin said.

Erdahl complete his college degree at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul in 1984, said his daughter, Diane Pabst of Sioux Falls.

Erdahl and his wife, Marion, were divorced. In addition to his daughter Diane Pabst, survivors include his companion, Charlotte Graham, and sons, Dan of Blue Earth and Dana of Rogers, Minn.; nine grandchildren; and Graham's children, Darrin Graham and Pam Sorensen, both of Sioux Falls, and her four grandchildren.

Services were held Thursday in Sioux Falls.

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