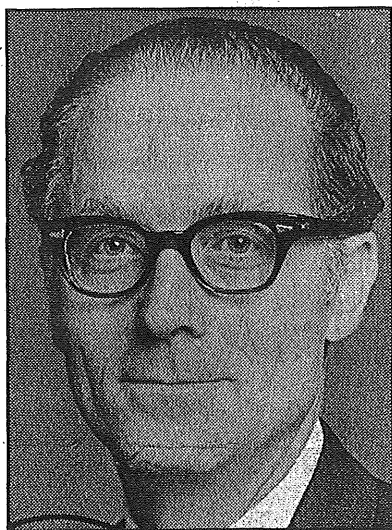


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## Obituaries



**Mel Hansen served as a state senator for 14 years. He was 78.**

### **Mel Hansen, senator from Minneapolis for 14 years**

Mel Hansen, 78, who represented the Nokomis neighborhood in south Minneapolis as a state senator for 14 years, died Monday at the Martin Luther Manor in Bloomington. Family members said his health had been declining for some time.

Hansen, who for several years owned and operated Careers Inc., a job counseling and placement agency in Minneapolis, was first elected to the Senate in 1962. He continued to serve District 34 and, later, District 61 until he was defeated in 1976 by Franklin Knoll, now a Hennepin County district judge.

Hansen was an Independent-Republican, "but he always emphasized independence and creativity to solve problems, instead of just the party line," said his son, Kerry, of Corte Madera, Calif.

Hansen was born and raised in Russell, Minn. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1940, and served on a Navy battleship during World War II.

He became president of Careers Inc. in 1957. He continued working as a personnel consultant after selling the business. He retired in 1989.

His major concerns in the Senate were pensions and the environment, his son said. He cowrote the first antismoking legislation and a 1965 bill that allowed contraceptive devices to be sold in the state.

Hansen participated in a number of community organizations, including the YMCA, the Roosevelt Area Community Council and the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Council. He also was actively involved at St. Peder's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, where he was president of the congregation.

He married Ethel Long in 1937. She died in 1984.

Hansen loved gardening and most water sports, including fishing and sailing. He swam across Lake Hiawatha on his 70th birthday.

Besides his son, he is survived by his daughters, Sharon Beckstrom, of New Market, N.H., and Judith Hansen, of Hermosa Beach, Calif.; a brother, Howard, of Arlington Heights, Ill.; three grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Peder's, 4600 E. 42nd St. Visitation will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Henry W. Anderson Mortuary, 3640 23rd Av. S., Minneapolis.