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Melvin J. Miller

State Rep. Miller dies in St. Paul

Rep. Melvin Miller, 55, DFL-Randall, died early Friday morning in St. Paul of an apparent heart attack.

Miller was in St. Paul to attend a meeting of the legislative government operations committee and had planned to attend the DFL caucus today.

His wife, Anne, said that he awoke at about 2 a.m. and completed the room was too late. Moments

later he collapsed. Paramedics from the St. Paul Fire Department were called, but Miller was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Paul Ramsey Hospital.

He was elected representative from the newly created District 12A in the 1972 election, but the race was so close it required a recount. This fall he won reelection to his seat, defeating Bruce Nelsen, a son of Congressman Ancher Nelsen. His district included Todd County and the western half of Morrison County.

His home was on a farm near Randall, where he had farmed for 21 years. He moved to Minnesota from North Dakota, where he also had farmed.

He and Mrs. Miller were married in Fargo, N.D., in 1950. During World War II, Miller served in the Army Air Force. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Knights of Columbus and the Farmers Union.

Besides his wife, he is survived by six sons, John, of Minneapolis; David, of Owatonna; and Keith, Craig, Neil and Brian, all at home and seven daughters, Barbara, at home; Joyce, of Minneapolis; Mary Ellen, of Moorhead; and Jean, Carla, Kay and Amy, all at home.

Other survivors include his mother, Mrs. Rose Miller, of Mott, N.D.; four brothers, Norbert, of Mound; Maurice, of Haynes, N.D.; Wilfred, of Woodland Hills, Calif.; and Frank, of Mott, N.D.

and four sisters, Mrs. Herbert (Blanche) Avery of Corvallis, Ore.; Mrs. Ralph (Agnes) Walker, of Billings, Mont.; Mrs. Edward (Agatha) Harbac, of Miles City, Mont.; and Mrs. Bernell (Norma) Svihovec, of Terry, Mont.

Reviewal will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Simonet Mortuary at Randall, with a prayer service at 8 p.m. and Knights of Columbus services at 8:30 p.m. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at St. James Catholic Church in Randall. Burial will be in the St. James cemetery at Randall.

Gov. Wendell Anderson will set a special election to fill Miller's seat. The election probably will be set before the first week in January, when Legislature convenes.