

# SESSION WEEKLY

Minnesota House of Representatives • April 2, 1999 • Volume 16, Number 13

**Session Weekly** is a nonpartisan publication of the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office. During the 1999-2000 Legislative Session, each issue reports daily House action between Thursdays of each week, lists bill introductions and upcoming committee meeting schedules, and provides other information. The publication is a service of the Minnesota House. No fee.

To subscribe, contact:  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Public Information Office  
175 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1298  
(651) 296-2146 or  
1-800-657-3550  
TTY (651) 296-9896

**Director**  
LeClair G. Lambert

**Acting Assistant Director/Editor**  
Nick Healy

**Acting Assistant Editor**  
Sandy Donovan

**Art & Production Coordinator**  
Paul Battaglia

**Writers**  
Jon Fure, Sarah Hallonquist,  
Grant Martin, Paul Wahl

**Chief Photographer**  
Tom Olmscheid

**Photographers**  
Gina Dabrowski, Laura Phillips,  
Andrew Von Bank

**Office Manager**  
Nicole Wood

**Staff Assistant**  
Jennifer Ridgeway

**Session Weekly** (ISSN 1049-8176) is published weekly during the legislative session by the Minnesota House of Representatives Public Information Office, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298. Periodicals postage paid at St. Paul, MN, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **Session Weekly**, Public Information Office, Minnesota House of Representatives, 175 State Office Building, 100 Constitution Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155-1298.

Printed on recycled paper which is 50% recycled, 20% post-consumer content.



## Reflections



Eighty-eight-year-old Rep. Willard Munger returned to the House chamber on March 29, after a bout with cancer. Once the roll was taken, Rep. Dave Bishop rose to give him a warm and affectionate welcome return, noting that his light on the voting board had been dark since Feb. 11. Lawmakers and staff present gave him one of the longest standing ovations and cheers that anyone has received.

Senior members get to choose where they sit in the chamber, so Munger, the Legislature's senior member, acknowledged the ovation by rising from his same seat of 20 years to thank the body.

He recognized staff members Betty Gohl, John Helland, and Cecil Underwood for their dedication and Rep. Harry Mares who gave Munger one of his homemade walking sticks "for special friends." Munger used it to help get himself to the House floor.

Rep. Munger is Minnesota's elder statesman. He is the only House member to hold office longer than any other. Rep. Walter E. Day, served almost as long, for 36 years. Three other lawmakers who served in both bodies hold a record of 44 years in the Legislature. Munger has served under 12 governors and 16 speakers. He was elected when Dwight D. Eisenhower was U.S. president, a year after Queen Elizabeth II was coronated in 1953.

A local elected official whose record may never be reached is Carl Peterson who served 61 years as a council member in the town of Roosevelt (population 180).

In 1964, Munger ran for Senate and lost. Thus, in 1998, he completed 21 nonconsecutive terms in the House. This 81st legislative session is his 22nd.

Rep. Munger is adorably called "Mr. Environment." He chaired the House Environment & Natural Resources Committee for 21 years, and he strongly believes that man should not interfere with the creative nature of the Earth. "Embrace and protect it so that it will last long after we are gone," he said.

He is honored for the multi-use Willard Munger Trail that runs from his hometown of west Duluth, all the way to the Twin Cities. Also, the Willard Munger Award honors a worthy environmentalist each year.

Munger is known for cleaning up and conserving the St. Louis, Minnesota, and Mississippi rivers and for preserving the wetlands, among other successful projects. He authored the Environmental Trust Fund law in the late 1980s to receive funds from the Minnesota Lottery.

Rep. Munger planned to retire in 1997, but before Frances, his wife of 33 years, died, she told him to stay. "So I am not leaving until the good Lord thinks I've had enough and have sponsored enough good legislation," he said.

Those who challenge Munger's issues are likely to get a long and passionate speech from him. The word among other "old-timer" legislators in the House of Representatives is, "When Munger speaks, everyone listens."

The House chamber is once more complete. All members are present.

— LeClair Grier Lambert

## INSIDE

Highlights .....	5
A Closer Look: Agricultural odors .....	15
Feature: U.S. Senator Rod Grams .....	16
Feature: New Revenue Building .....	17
Governor's Desk (CH1-CH26) .....	18
Bill Introductions (HF2292-HF2346) .....	19
Committee Schedule (April 5-10) .....	21

On the cover: Flags flew during a rally for tax cuts on the Capitol steps March 27.

Photo by Andrew Von Bank