

Obituaries

Former state representative Joseph Niehaus dies at age 83

Joseph T. Niehaus, 83, a former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, died Thursday at St. Michael's Hospital in Sauk Centre, Minn.

Niehaus, an Independent-Republican, was elected to represent western Stearns County in 1968. He served until 1982.

He was a vocal opponent of abortion and was head of the House Health and Welfare Committee in 1979.

He also was active on the Townships and Local Government committee.

"He felt very strongly that the township government was as close to the people as you could get," said Vern Meyer, a friend who worked on Nie-

haus' first campaign. 8-12-1989

Niehaus ran unopposed in only one of his seven elections.

He was born on a farm north of Melrose, Minn., and operated a dairy farm near Sauk Centre for many years. He was on the Sauk Centre Creamery board and was a director of Land O'Lakes Co.

"One of his most famous campaign pictures showed him in overalls with a pitchfork," Meyer said Friday. "He was walking around in the barn and obviously it was a used fork. It was not obviously one of these trick shots that politicians sometimes used. He was truly a man of the soil."

Niehaus also was a beekeeper and

bottled and sold honey.

He is survived by his wife, Lucine; sons Joseph Jr., of Osakis, Minn., Virgil, of Sauk Centre, and the Rev. Theodore Niehaus, of La Cruz, Nicaragua; daughters Toni Wiener, of Sauk Centre, Marian Moening, of Padua, Minn., Lucille Marthaler, of West Union, Minn., and Eileen Niehaus, of St. Cloud, Minn.; brothers Ted, of Grass Valley, Calif., Alquin, of San Francisco, and Albert, Edward and Tony, all of Melrose; sisters Sister Venard Niehaus, of Lexington, Tenn., Sister Helen Niehaus, of Little Falls, Minn., Hildegard Joyer, of Sacramento, Calif., and Mae Wiechmann, of Melrose; 29 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m.



Joseph Niehaus (1981 photo)

Monday at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Sauk Centre. Visitation will begin at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the Schad Funeral Home in Sauk Centre