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Raymond Pavlak, 68, district judge for 20 years

Retired District Judge Raymond Pavlak 68, died Friday in his South St. Faul home.

Fellow judges remember Pavlak for his civility in the courtroom and his willingness to share his experience with new judges.

"He was an outstanding judge and he was a gentleman," said Edward Lynch, chief judge of the First District, where Pavlak served. "He was well respected by his colleagues and he'll be missed."

Pavlak earned his undergraduate degree at what is now the University of St. Thomas and his law degree at what is now the William Mitchell College of Law, both in St. Paul. He served in the Legislature from 1965 to 1974, representing South St. Paul and Dakota County. He was appointed a district judge by Gov. Wendell Anderson in 1974 and was reelected three times. He retired on Feb. 28.

Pavlak is survived by his wife, Jerry; daughters Ann Bares, of Claredon Hills, Ill., Mary Kenady, of Inver Grove Heights, Beth Birnstengel and Theresa Jorgenson, both of South St. Paul; son Paul, of Minneapolis; brothers Joseph, of South St. Paul, Ronald and Archie, both of Eagan, and seven grandchildren.

A mass of Christian burial will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at the Church of St. John Vianney, 19th Ave. N. & Bromley, South St. Paul. Burial will be at Resurrection Cemetery. No visitation will be held. Arrangements are by Southern Funeral Home in South St. Paul.