

Rose

John Rose, 6-term House member, dies at 54 after surgery

By Robert Whereatt
Staff Writer

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Rep. John Rose, 54, a six-term member of the Minnesota House and an ardent supporter of education, the environment and youth sports, died following surgery Tuesday.

Rose, an Independent-Republican from Roseville, had entered St. John's Northeast Hospital, Maplewood, July 12 for emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix.

He underwent additional surgery for an intestinal blockage yesterday about noon. He was taken to his room after what was believed to be a

successful operation, and died about 3:20 p.m., said Rep. William Schreiber, the House minority leader, who had spoken with Rose's wife, Marilyn.

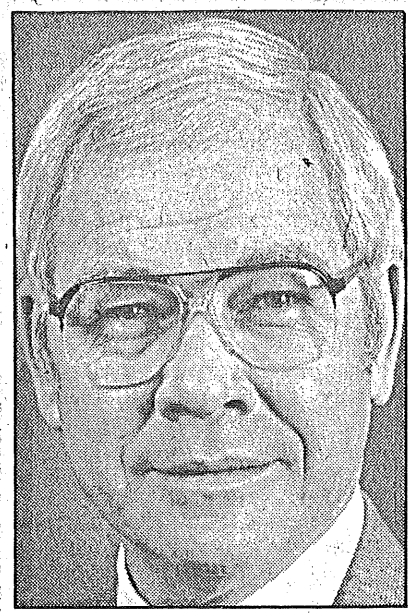
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Besides his wife, Rose is survived by two daughters, Kathy and Julie, and two sons, Dan and Keith. Funeral arrangements were pending yesterday.

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On Oct. 3, Rose, an avid hunter and fisherman, suffered a heart attack while duck hunting near Alexandria, Minn.

A physical education specialist in the Roseville school system, Rose was



Rep. John Rose

given a reduced schedule, and eventually got doctor's clearance to resume full legislative and school activ-

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ities.

About two weeks ago, he returned to the hospital for an angioplasty, an operation to clear an obstruction or narrowing of an artery. That operation was considered successful.

"This one's so shocking," said Schreiber, Rose's friend as well as colleague.

Rose had friends on both sides of the political aisle. He used his friendships and knowledge of the legislative process to pick up votes for programs and issues he supported.

He was in tune with behind-the-scenes negotiating and bickering in DFL and IR caucuses, and reporters often sought him out for background information.

Rose was a moderate Republican who sometimes confided that he had more in common with moderate DFLers than with right-wing Republicans. When DFLers gained control in 1986, Rose attempted to be elected minority leader by his caucus. The Independent-Republicans chose Schreiber, who is considered more conservative.

Gov. Rudy Perpich was notified of Rose's death late yesterday afternoon and issued a statement from his lake home near Gilbert, in northern Minnesota.

"John was my friend," Perpich said. "He also was a fine legislator, who was a strong supporter of environmental and educational issues. John was widely respected, and he also voted for what he thought was right."

Perpich, a DFLer, got along better with Rose than with some DFLers. The Independent-Republican cooper-

ated with Perpich on a major bonding bill in 1987 in hopes that it would include an Olympic-sized speed-skating rink. It was a project Rose had pursued for years. It did not survive a conference committee.

Rose was chairman of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee when the Independent-Republicans controlled the House from 1984-86. He was the chief sponsor of the Reinvest In Minnesota law that sets aside marginal farmland for natural resource conservation. He was a sponsor of a hazardous waste bill that permits the state to work with counties to dispose of the waste.

In 1985, Rose was named environmentalist of the year by the North Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. The following year, he was cited by the Minnesota Conservation Federation as the outstanding legislator dealing with conservation issues. He received other awards recognizing his work for environmental projects.

He was involved in youth hockey and youth soccer in the Roseville area.

Robert Ashbach, a former state senator from Roseville and close friend, echoed others who said Rose was respected by colleagues.

"When he first started in the Legislature he would be asking me for advice," Ashbach said. "It wasn't long and he established a name for himself and I was asking him questions on legislation."

Rose had filed for reelection this year. Filings for the office closed at 5 p.m. yesterday. Schreiber said he had not checked the law, but expects that filings will have to be reopened for that House seat.