

J. Robert Stassen Civic force in South St. Paul

10/21/15

For banker, public service ran in the family



J. Robert "Bob" Stassen, whose civic life spanned politics, banking, transportation and the St. Paul Winter Carnival, died Thursday at age 88.

Stassen served three years as a state senator from South St. Paul, following in the tradition of public service set by his uncle, Harold Stassen, a Minnesota governor, and his grandfather, William Andrew Stassen, a mayor of West St. Paul.

Stassen's legacy included being owner and president of West St. Paul State Bank, serving on the Metropolitan Airports Commission from 1981 to 1997 and being director of the Minnesota Bankers Association from 1983 to 1986.

In 1981, he was chosen as Notos, Prince of the South Wind, for the St. Paul Winter Carnival. And he introduced

his uncle as a candidate for the GOP presidential nomination at the 1968 Republican National Convention in Miami Beach.

He was elected state senator in 1973.

Stassen was born Aug. 15, 1927, in West St. Paul. He served in the U.S. Navy, then earned a degree in philosophy from the University of Minnesota and a degree from Bethel Seminary, and attended William Mitchell College of Law.

He and his wife, Arline, were longtime residents of South St. Paul before moving to Mendota Heights in 1988. His wife died in 2011; they had been married for 60 years.

He is survived by his five children, Beth, Kay, Jay, Julie and Jeffrey; seven grandchildren, and a brother, Raymond.

Visitation is 5 p.m. Monday at Kandt-Tetrick Funeral Home in South St. Paul. The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul.

KIM ODE

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