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## Stanley Thorup, former state senator, Anoka County judge

By David Chanen

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Stanley N. Thorup, 67, a former state senator and Anoka County district judge, was found dead Wednesday at his cabin in Brainerd, Minn., apparently of a heart attack.

Thorup, of Coon Rapids, was a municipal judge in Blaine and Spring Lake Park from 1962 to 1968. In the early 1960s he was a proponent of the "traffic corps" concept, a series of classes intended to improve driving habits. In 1966 he received an award from the North American Judges Association for "his contribution to the reduction of highway slaughter" from car accidents.

From 1970 to 1974 he was a DFL senator representing Blaine and Coon Rapids. Thorup, who was an outspoken opponent of abortion, sponsored legislation to restrict abortions after the first 4½ months of pregnancy except to preserve the life or health of the mother. He also sponsored legislation to give most public employees the right to strike, to protect people from land development scams and to add suburban members to the Metropolitan Airports Commission. He also helped craft legislation that created the state's district court system and was in favor of making the Metropolitan

Council an elected body.

In 1974, Gov. Wendell Anderson appointed Thorup to the Anoka County district bench. Among the more notable cases he heard involved Marsha A. Palmer, a 32-year-old Fridley woman who killed her estranged husband and his girlfriend on Halloween night 1993.

Thorup retired in July.

He was president of the Minnesota Municipal Judges Association, president of Unity Hospital in Fridley and chairman of the DFL Party for Anoka County. He was chairman of the Blaine Charter Commission when it became a city.

He was born in Leal, N.D., and earned a bachelor's degree from Hamline University in St. Paul. He was a graduate of the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul and was a law clerk for the Minnesota Supreme Court. He was in the Army, was a jazz musician with the Metropolitan Jazz Quartet and Southwater Street Seven in Chicago and a golf professional before becoming a lawyer.

Thorup is survived by his wife, Bernadette; sons Bradley, Jeffrey and Brian; a daughter, Patricia Thorup, and a sister, Ellen Feikema. Services are pending; arrangements are by Seman Family Funeral Home, Coon Rapids.