

Barbara Vickerman, Redwood Falls legislator, dies

State Rep. Barbara Vickerman, a Republican from Redwood Falls, Minn., died Monday of liver cancer at her home. She was 64.

Vickerman first was elected to the Minnesota House in 1992 and was in her third term.

Her fellow legislators remembered her as an amicable person who was concerned about children's health issues and overhauling the welfare system.

"She was very personable, well-liked, and she had a lot of common sense, which made her a good rep," said Rep. Kevin Goodno, R-Moorhead, who worked closely with Vickerman on the Health and Human



Barbara Vickerman kept focus on welfare and children's health.

Services Committee.

Trained as a medical laboratory technician, Vickerman held various jobs before serving in the Legislature.

She and her husband, Jerry, operated a bowling alley for several years, and she opened up the Wishing Well card and gift shop in Redwood Falls.

"She really was a citizen-legislator in the true sense of the word," said fellow Republican Rep. Ron Abrams, of Minnetonka, whose office was next to Vickerman's. "I knew her as the grandmother from Redwood Falls."

Back at home, Vickerman fancied reading

and cooking, with a collection of cookbooks that numbered more than 400, her husband said. And her love of books led her to participate in a movement to establish a new library in the southwestern Minnesota town.

In addition to her husband, Vickerman is survived by sons Leo, of Minneapolis; Brett, of Phoenix, and Mark, of Dickinson, N.D.; a daughter, Ellen Varner, of Redwood Falls, and five grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls.

Services will take place at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

— *Allie Shah*