

## Delbert Anderson; was legislator who fought for two 'U' campuses

By Lucy Y. Her  
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Delbert Anderson of Starbuck, Minn., a former DFL state representative, is credited with helping establish the University of Minnesota campus at Morris and Metropolitan State University.

He died of renal failure Monday at the Glenwood (Minn.) Retirement Village. He was 79.

As a legislative commissioner on higher education in the late 1950s, he urged that agricultural schools at Crookston and Morris be made four-year branches of the university. This would extend "needed educational opportunities to an area where virtually no college facilities exist," commissioners said in a 1958 article in the Minneapolis Tribune.

In 1982 he was honored by the university with the Distinguished Service Award for his work in extending the university to Morris.

"He had very strong values" when it came to higher education, said his daughter, Naomi Kapsner of Minneapolis.

Anderson, who was known as the "flying legislator," was first elected to the Minnesota House in 1952. He served from 1953 to 1961 and 1967 to 1981.

In the 1953 session he set a record for commuting by air from his 280-acre farm near Starbuck in west-central Minnesota 14 of 16 weekends. "He liked to fly," said his brother, Celius Anderson of Pekin, Ill.

A 1954 article in the Minne-

apolis Star described him as a "husky, quiet second-termer from Pope County."

Before running for state representative, Anderson served as township clerk, as a committee member of the Farmers Home Administration who was active in soil conservation work, and as clerk for the local school district. He was also a director of the National Flying Farmers.

During his legislative career, Anderson served on the transportation, state department, higher education, appropriations and state building commission committees. He helped secure money for roads in Pope County, for an airport and marina in Starbuck, for Glacial Lakes State Park and for research on the Bonanza Valley irrigation project in Brooten.

"He attacked everything with a passion," said his son, Dwight Anderson of Duluth.

In addition to his son Dwight, his daughter Naomi and his brother, Celius, he is survived by two other daughters, Rosann of Rockwell City, Iowa, and Darlene Finau of San Francisco; three other sons, John of St. Cloud, Byron of Eden Prairie and Mark of White Bear Lake; a sister, Carol Kunkel of Brainerd, and 17 grandchildren.

Visitations will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. today at the Hoplin Funeral Home in Glenwood and at 10 a.m. Saturday at Fron Lutheran Church in Starbuck. Services will follow at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church.