

OBITUARIES

Ex-lobbyist, legislator John Tracy Anderson dies at age 71

By **Lucy Y. Her**
Star Tribune Staff Writer

As a lobbyist and state legislator, John Tracy Anderson was known as someone who was always looking out for the "little guy."

"He did an excellent job of representing our interests in Minnesota and in Washington, D.C.," said Andy Czajkowski, former president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. "John was also a person who was generous with his time. Anyone who was sick, he personally visited them."

Anderson, who had been a Republican state representative and senator and later director of legislative affairs for Blue Cross, died of heart disease Tuesday at St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. He was 71.



Anderson lobbied for Blue Cross for 30 years.

From 1976 to 1996, he was chief lobbyist for Blue Cross. In 1987, he opposed expanding a 2 percent tax that the state levied on for-profit insurance companies to include nonprofit organizations such as Blue Cross and HMOs.

Czajkowski, who lives in Hawaii, said Anderson worked for the organization for about 28 years.

In 1996, he became executive director of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. Anderson retired in December 1999.

Former Gov. Elmer L. Anderson was a state senator when Anderson was a state representative. Anderson represented the Como, Midway, St. Anthony Park and Roseville area from 1957 to 1961 and then again from 1963 to 1967. He was senator from 1967 to 1973.

"He was the legislator of the little guy," Anderson said. "He was a very fine man, and I admired him very much."

D.J. Leary, a DFL analyst and a former political consultant who is co-editor of Politics in Minnesota, said Anderson "was known for his competence and extraordinary integrity. He never left anything hidden when he was talking to legislators. He told them about the good and the bad. He was held in such high regard."

Leary said Anderson was the epitome of the "gentle man" and made people realize that "lobbying had a certain nobility to it."

Glen Skovholt of St. Paul, a longtime friend, said Anderson was a leader in the community and the church. He was a former president of the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church congregation.

"He was just one of those leaders that people looked up to," said Skovholt, who helped with some of Anderson's legislative campaigns.

"John loved political policy," he said. "John was so highly respected by legislators from both parties. He worked very well in a nonpartisan setting. With John, what you saw was what you got. It was part of why he was so well-respected."

Anderson's survivors include his wife, Lois; a son, Jevon of Roseville; a daughter, Tracy of St. Paul; and a brother, W. Robert of San Marcos, Calif.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Holcomb-Henry-Boom Funeral Home, 515 W. Hwy. 96, Shoreview. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Chapel of Incarnation at Luther Seminary Campus, 2481 Como Av., St. Paul.