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Former state lawmaker Thomas D. Vukelich dies

Thomas D. Vukelich, 75, a former Minnesota state senator, died Tuesday at Virginia Regional Hospital in Virginia, Minn., apparently of lung cancer.

Vukelich, a lifelong resident of Gilbert, Minn., was born July 9, 1909, in Virginia and served from 1939 to 1946 as a state representative and from 1947 to 1966 as a state senator. He was a former assessor for Gilbert, a member of the Iron Range League of Municipalities and a member of the Iron Range Rehabilitation Center.

A cousin of Vukelich said he had been battling lung cancer and severe diabetes for about two months. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

Vukelich is survived by six daughters: Mary Margaret Skenzich of Virginia, Jean Osborne of Aurora, Ill., Elizabeth Muhvic of Stevens Point, Wis., Paula Vukelich of Hibbing, Janet Weiss of Farmington Hills, Mich., and Joann Vukelich-Belgum of Brainerd.

He has three brothers and three sisters: Matthew, of White Bear Lake

and Milan and John of Virginia; and Caroline Maitland of St. Paul, Mildred Kraker of Fridley, and Delores Bayuk of Wauseon, Ohio, and four grandchildren.

Services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Gilbert. Burial will follow at Gilbert Cemetery. Arrangements are being made by Ziemer-Moeglein Funeral Home of Gilbert.

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