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Richard O'Dea, former state legislator

Richard O'Dea, a former state representative from Washington County, died of cancer Saturday at the age of 81.

O'Dea, who was born in St. Paul and later moved to Mahtomedi, served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1952 to 1972.

He had a 41-year career at the Whirlpool plant in St. Paul, and

served as mayor of Willernie, north of St. Paul, before being elected to the House. O'Dea was in the minority during a time of Republican control in the House, and winning control for the DFLers "was always on his Christmas wish list," said his daughter, Sharon Zweber. He was active on the Education Committee and worked on school issues in the growing suburban area he represented.

In addition to Zweber, O'Dea is survived by his wife, Lucille, of Mahtomedi; sons Richard of Mendota Heights and Thomas of Stillwater; a daughter, Sandra Olson of Largo, Fla.; 14 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Services were held Wednesday.

— *Associated Press*