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Connie Burchett, 82, DFL representative from Coon Rapids in mid-1960s

Connie Burchett, 82, a DFL state representative from Coon Rapids in the mid-1960s, died Sunday at her home in Port Hueneme, Calif. '94

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Burchett, one of the first women elected to the House, served only one term. She gave up her seat to run for the Senate, which she lost in a close race.

"She was told it would be tough for a woman to win, but she just went for it," said her daughter, Gail Burchett, of Oxnard, Calif. "She put in a lot of hours and always kept a positive attitude."

She was active in health care and education issues and sponsored a bill to get fathers and stepfathers to pay

child support. Before she was elected, Burchett was chairwoman of the state DFL Party and a member of the Anoka County Welfare Board.

She was born in Oak Lawn, Ill., and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago. She worked at Walgreen Drug Stores in Chicago for more than

25 years and was in charge of its advertising copyright department when she moved to Coon Rapids in 1950. She and her late husband, Dale, retired and moved to Bella Vista, Ark., in 1978. She moved to Port Hueneme in 1987.

There are no other immediate survivors. Services will be held today in

Oxnard, Calif. A memorial service will be held in August at First Congregational Church in Anoka. Memorials to the American Cancer Society are suggested. Arrangements are by the Charles Carroll Funeral Home in Ventura, Calif.