

Former Rep. John Kosloske dies at 96

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Services were held Saturday in Sauk Rapids, Minn., for John Kosloske, a former state legislator and a member of the Minnesota Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame. He died Feb. 4 in Sartell, Minn., at age 96.

Throughout his career in public service, Kosloske was known as a contentious man.

"That's why he got things done," said his stepdaughter, Dorothy Haber of Sauk Rapids.

Besides dual careers as insurance agent and employee of the Burlington Northern Railroad, he served three terms as a Republican representative from 1949 to 1954. That included assignments on the Insurance and Taxes committees his last two terms and single terms on five other committees. He also served as a justice of the peace in Sauk Rapids for two decades, ending in the 1950s.

His service as mayor of Sauk Rapids in 1966 and 1967 was tumultuous. He suspended three po-



John Kosloske served three terms as a Republican representative.

lice officers and was arrested for contempt of court when he interrupted a hearing to protest an earlier ruling involving one of the police cases.

After a stint on the Benton County Board in the late 1970s, he attempted a legislative comeback in 1980 at the age of 72. News reports called him an old-style politician, considered a maverick who took orders only from himself. He lost in the House primary.

"There was no doubt where he stood on any issue," Haber said.

His decisiveness, however, served him well in amateur baseball. He played catcher on several city teams and started a team in Spring Valley, Minn., in the early 1930s, Haber said. After many years as an umpire, he was inducted in 1963 into the Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame, now in St. Cloud, as part of its inaugural class.

Kosloske married Haber's mother, Marcella House, in 1936. She died last May.

Survivors in addition to his stepdaughter include a stepson, William House of Minneapolis; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren, and sisters Irene Hanson of Sun City, Ariz., and Dorothy Ridges of Tucson, Ariz.

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