

## OBITUARIES

# Michael McGuire, former legislator

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An Irishman known for his politics would have taken pride in passing away on St. Patrick's Day, said Michael McGuire's son Mick.

McGuire, a DFL state representative and senator in the '50s and '60s, died Thursday of complications after heart surgery on Tuesday. He was 79.



**Michael E. McGuire, who also was a lawyer, died at age 79.**

In the McGuire home, St. Patty's Day trumped everything except Christmas, Mick McGuire said.

"There was always lots of dancing and Irish music, even if it wasn't St. Patrick's Day," he said.

Mike McGuire had returned from Florida three weeks ago tanned and feeling "on top of the world," his son said.

He was born June 5, 1925, on a farm in Sibley County in south-central Minnesota. He graduated from Henderson High School and went into the U.S. Army. As a combat infantryman in World War II, he was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

With assistance from the GI Bill, McGuire went to the College of St. Thomas and received a bachelor's degree in government and education in 1949. He continued at the University of Minnesota law school, graduating in 1952.

He practiced law for several years before winning election to the Minnesota House of Representatives from LeSueur in 1954. He served two terms in the House and then two terms as state senator until 1966.

He was considered a fiscally conservative Democrat, said Mick McGuire, often opposing increases in sales and property taxes.

In 1960, he appealed for a return to basic values in education, saying "our children are becoming soft, as we as a people and a country are becoming materially soft." He voted against the West Bank expansion of the University of Minnesota, preferring more use of state colleges in rural areas. In 1963, he authored the Senate version of a bill to allow food to be served in bars in communities under 5,000 residents.

He never outgrew his love of small towns. He continued to live in Montgomery even while he was a lobbyist for O'Connor & Hannan, a law firm that was one of the first tenants in the IDS Building in downtown Minneapolis.

McGuire was one of the most effective and admired lobbyists at the Legislature, said Ray J. Joachim, a staff member for the DFL Senate Caucus.

"He liked to say that he was a country lawyer with an office in the IDS," said Mick McGuire.

He and his first wife, Eleanor, who died in 1980, had seven children. In addition to Mick, he is survived by Colleen Wondra, Pat, Sue Gregor, Dan, Brian and Maureen Franek. He also is survived by his second wife, Ramona Choudek, whom he married in 1990, and eight stepchildren.

Services will be held Monday at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Montgomery.

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