

Ex-Council Member Patrick Daugherty dies

He also represented north and northeast Minneapolis in Minnesota House

By Steve Brandt
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Patrick Daugherty, who represented north and northeast Minneapolis on the Minneapolis City Council and in the Minnesota House, died early Tuesday of a heart attack. He was 68.

Daugherty was a pipefitter for 27 years and also the son, brother and father of pipefitters. He also got involved in the DFL politics that dominate the North Side. He was known as a loyal worker in the trenches and became the DFL chairman for the Third Ward and later for the Senate district in which he lived.

The party work eventually led to his turn at political office. He was elected to the House in 1970 but stepped aside two years later in a gesture of loyalty to a more senior colleague when redistricting threw both into the same district.

He campaigned for the council in 1977 on a platform of keeping decent neighborhoods. He cited new and rehabilitated homes and commercial redevelopment as accomplishments in seeking reelection.

"He could see things from the



Patrick Daugherty was involved in DFL politics.

average person's point of view," said John Derus, a North Side political ally. "He knew what it meant to work with his hands, and he knew how hard life could be for the people who live on the North Side."

Sometimes that meant helping them himself. His council aide, Jerome Kantorowicz, recalls the 5 p.m. call from an elderly constituent whose furnace had gone out and who was worried about the expense of a repairman. Daugherty

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erty himself went to her home on 22nd Av. NE., with Kantorowicz breaking a date to hold the flashlight. He got the furnace going and arranged for a repairman to follow that up with repairs for the cost of parts.

"Pat's real monument is the thousands of good deeds he did for people," Kantorowicz said.

But by 1983, his record wasn't strong enough for neighborhood activists led by Sandra Hilary, who challenged Daugherty in one of the bitterest council campaigns in recent history. The election was marked by the Minnesota Supreme Court throwing out an election for the first time in 63 years, upholding Daugherty's claim that Hilary's sample ballot violated the state's campaign practices law. Daugherty lost by 85 votes the first time and 128 votes in the rematch.

He worked as a city steam and hot water inspector before and after his council stint and also served on the Minnesota State Board of Health.

"Pat is one of the kindest, gentlest people I've ever met. He's just incredibly generous," said Richard Miller, Daugherty's predecessor on the council.

Daugherty graduated from De La Salle High School in 1946 and completed pipefitter training at Dunwoody Institute in 1953.

Lou DeMars, who served on the council with Daugherty, recalls him sitting on the kitchen floor, with a cup of coffee, repairing a sink. "He's probably been in everybody's house in north Minneapolis. . . . He was kind of on call for everybody."

Survivors include his wife, Maureen, of Robbinsdale; a son, Timothy, of Andover; a sister, Mary Benny, of Minneapolis; brothers James, of Robbinsdale, Gerald, of Brooklyn Park, John, of Minneapolis, and Kenneth, of Malden, Mass., and two grandchildren.

A reviewal is scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at Malone Funeral Home, 1300 Lowry Av. N., Minneapolis. A funeral mass will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Bridget's Church, 3820 Emerson Av. N., Minneapolis. Burial will follow at St. Henry's Cemetery in Perham, Minn.