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## Philip Duff, 74, retired publisher and cofounder of News Council

By Warren Wolfe

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Philip Duff, retired editor and publisher of the Red Wing Republican Eagle and cofounder of the Minnesota News Council, died of pneumonia Thursday at his home in Red Wing, Minn. He was 74.

Duff also was a state senator from 1951 to 1953, representing Dodge and Mower counties. He left the Legislature and joined the Red Wing newspaper, becoming editor and publisher in 1960. He ran unsuccessfully for the state Senate in 1970.

A vocal champion of environmental issues, civic development, nuclear disarmament and fiscal responsibility by government, Duff was known for his civil manner but relentless questioning of civic leaders in his editorials and news articles. He stepped down as editor in April 1982, but continued as adviser, columnist, reporter and editorial writer for the paper. He cared deeply about public policy and foreign affairs, and over the years wrote about his world travels.

While serving on the Minnesota Newspaper Association board in 1970, Duff was cofounder of the Minnesota Press Council, now the Minnesota News Council, which reviews complaints about news coverage.

Duff was president of the association in 1971 and served on other state and local organizations, including the Minnesota Association of Commerce and Industry, the Governor's Commission on Legislative Reapportionment, the Governor's Task Force on Health Care and the Governor's Commission on the Arts.

Born in Minneapolis in 1922, Duff was a naval aviator during World War II and graduated from Yale University in 1946. He worked at Minnesota newspapers in Plainview, Bemidji and Kasson before moving to Red Wing. He married Amanda Florness in 1956. They were divorced and he married Carol Klemenhagen Gross in 1987. He is survived by his wife; a son, Philip, of Greenwich, Conn.; daughters Anne Duff, of St. Paul, and Sarah Halvorson, of Eden Prairie; a stepson, Peter Gross, of St. Paul; stepdaughters Elizabeth Gross, of Chicago, and Amy Achen, of Appleton, Wis.; brothers Nicholas and David, both of Wayzata; sister Molly Woehrlin of Northfield, and five grandchildren.

Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. next Friday at First Presbyterian Church in Red Wing. Visitation will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Johnson Funeral Home in Red Wing, and at the church an hour before services.