

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Memorial Service
April 19, 1973

MEMORIAL TO: Dr. Reuben Erickson
PRESENTED BY: Representative Mary Forsythe

Dr. Reuben Erickson was born on a farm in Washington County and died on December 31, 1971. He was a farmer, a soldier, a medical doctor, and a legislator. He graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture and farmed 160 acres until he enlisted in the army during World War I. It was during the combat at Argonne that he developed an interest in medicine. On his discharge from the army he enrolled at Gustavus Adolphus in St. Peter, to prepare for his medical education at the University of Minnesota and graduate work at Columbia University.

Dr. Erickson lived in Edina and practiced medicine in the Minneapolis area from 1927 until his retirement. He took a leading role in professional life as the President of the Hennepin County Medical Society, the Minnesota Academy of General Practice, and the Minnesota Geriatric Society. He also served on the staff of Fairview Southdale, and Swedish Hospitals.

Dr. Erickson entered public life at age 21 when he was elected to the school board in Scandia, Minnesota. In 1940 he was elected to the Legislature from the southern half of the 36th District, which included all of south Hennepin County. His second term as legislator was interrupted when he enlisted in the army and served in World War II.

We in Edina perhaps remember him best as the Mayor of our village in the years of its dramatic growth. He was Mayor from 1949 to 1956 and did much to plot Edina's growth patterns. In this role he was a forerunner in organized urban development.

He was an active member of Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. His wife, Hazel, is with us today as we remember Dr. Erickson.