

Obituaries

Former state Sen. Roy Holsten dies; He pushed tax reform, workers' comp

By **STAR TRIBUNE** - M JAN 16 '99
Lucy T. Her
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Roy Holsten, a former state senator, died Wednesday at St. John's Hospital in Maplewood. He was 61.

Holsten, an attorney, was a Republican senator from 1966 to 1972, and was vice chairman of the Tax Committee. He sponsored legislation that included parimutuel betting, sales-tax reform and workers' compensation revision. He also worked on behalf of the mentally disabled.

"My father was an individual who had a big heart," said Mark Holsten, of Stillwater. "The discipline and work ethic that my father put forward and expected of us has made it easier for us to succeed in life and come out ahead."

He applied the same ethics to his work as a partner in law offices in Lake Elmo and Stillwater, and later as chief counsel for the Holsten Law Office and Stillwater Title Co.

Holsten received a bachelor's degree from Hamline University in 1959 and his law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1964.

He coached youth basketball, baseball and football teams in Minneapolis and Stillwater.

"He was always available when we needed help," said Stillwater High School coach George Thole. "He was a behind-the-scenes worker."

Another son, Michael Holsten, of Stillwater, said: "My father was my friend, role model and mentor. His legacy to me was provid-

ing me with the knowledge and ability to be the best father to my children. I lovingly called him 'sir.'"

In addition to his sons, Holsten is survived by his wife, Iona, of Stillwater; daughters Jodi Shuster, of Langhorne, Pa., and Jenny Greeder, of Stillwater, and eight grandchildren.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Trinity Lutheran Church, 115 N. 4th St., Stillwater. Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday and at 10 a.m. Monday at the Monet Funeral Home in Stillwater.