

Obituaries

William House dies; was 5-term legislator from Iron Range area

William H. House, who served five terms as a state representative from northeastern Minnesota, died Monday in Northfield, Minn., after a long illness. He was 77.

House, who taught school for 36 years in Two Harbors, Minn., was a legislator for 10 years beginning in 1959. He represented what was then District 61A, covering part of St. Louis County and all of Lake and Cook counties. He was especially active in education and conservation issues and sponsored the 1962 bill that made the loon Minnesota's state bird.

"His experience in the state Legislature wasn't a political experience as much as an experience in which he could represent his area of the state — work for the issues that they cared about," said his son, Dana House, of Bloomington.

House was born in the Canadian province of Ontario but his family moved to Eveleth, Minn., when he was a child. After graduating from

Eveleth High School in 1929 he worked for a year as an iron miner. From 1930 to 1932 he blazed trails and built structures in Gooseberry Falls State Park, north of Two Harbors.

House earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in 1935 and later taught secondary-school science, math, agriculture and industrial arts in Two Harbors. In 1963 he earned a master's degree in education from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He retired in 1974 and moved to Northfield in 1986.

In addition to serving in the Legislature, House was director of the Duluth Rehabilitation Center and was active with the Minnesota Conservation Federation and the Great Lakes Advisory Committee on fisheries.

He is also survived by his wife, Gladys, of Northfield; daughters Julie Olson of Faribault and Mary Torstveit of La Crosse, Wis.; a sister, Ruth Smolke of Eveleth; brothers Norman



William H. House

of Fairmont, Minn., and Stanley of Minneapolis, and eight grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, followed by burial at Lakeview Cemetery, both in Two Harbors. Visitation is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Benson's Funeral Home in Northfield. The family prefers memorials to the Centennial Fund for Bethlehem Lutheran Church.