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## **Joseph Prifrel, former legislator, labor organizer**

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Joseph Prifrel, a longtime labor organizer and former legislator, died Thursday at age 91. Formerly of St. Paul, he had been living at the White Bear Care Center in White Bear Lake.

First elected to the Minnesota House in 1938, Prifrel represented St. Paul for 34 years. He spent most of his life in the labor movement before he retired in 1974. Teamsters president Jimmy Hoffa was master of ceremonies at his retirement dinner.

Prifrel began work as a fur cutter when he was 16 and became active in the International Fur and Leather Workers Union. He later organized employees at Red Wing Shoes in Red Wing, Minn.

He joined the Teamsters and organized retail and mail-order workers at the St. Paul Montgomery Ward store and service technicians at the Min-

neapolis Sears store. He remained a business agent for the Teamsters until he retired.

Prifrel loved hunting and fishing and was a catcher in the industrial baseball leagues. He was a lifetime member of the St. Paul Amateur Baseball Association.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn; sons Thomas of St. Paul; James of Roseville, and Robert, of Little Canada; daughters Josette Griffith of St. Paul and Kathleen Kaiser of White Bear Lake; 17 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Prifrel was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in St. Paul for more than 80 years. Services will be held there at 11 a.m. today.

— *Associated Press*