

Donald Sinclair, 79, former state senator, dies of cancer

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Former State Sen. Donald Sinclair, 79, one of the most respected members of the Minnesota Legislature during 24 years of service, died Thursday night.

He died of cancer in a hospital at Warren. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Monday in First Presbyterian Church at Stephen, in northwestern Minnesota.

Survivors include his wife, Gertrude; sons James of Detroit Lakes and Peter of Stephen, and a daughter, Mrs. Earl Myhre of Minneapolis.

Sinclair rose to the chairmanship of the Senate Finance Committee and was regarded as a key member of the inner circle of "conservatives" who controlled the Senate prior to

However, he never called himself a Republican, the label borne by most conservatives. He said his political roots were in the old Democratic Party before its merger into the DFL.

He was elected in 1946 and served through 1971. He did not seek reelection in 1972.

He had farm near Stephen, in the Red River Valley. A tall, white-haired man, he often was described as a man who "looked like a senator."