

Paul Thuet Jr. dies; was lawyer, state Senate leader in the '60s

Paul A. Thuet Jr., 70, of West St. Paul, the Minnesota Senate minority leader from 1963 to 1966, died of heart problems Sunday at Southview Acres Health Care Center in West St. Paul.

Thuet, a DFLer, was elected to the Senate from South St. Paul in 1958 and reelected in 1962 from the 13th District in Dakota County.

He was sometimes described as a big, friendly, outspoken man who seemed to relish being in the center of the political stew.

"He was a superb politician," said John Todd, a former Minnesota Supreme Court justice and law partner of Thuet's. "He knew the process and

could deliver votes."

He authored bills on ethics in government, disclosure of legislative activities and the formation of a committee to study the lower court system in Minnesota. In 1973, he was named to the Metropolitan Council by Gov. Wendell Anderson, another former law partner, and served on the council until 1975, representing Dakota, Scott and Carver counties.

Thuet graduated from St. Paul Central High School and the University of Minnesota. He completed law school at the university in 1939. In the mid-1940s, he served on the staff of the Judge Advocate General Corps in Okinawa.

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He was a partner in a South St. Paul law firm from about 1947 to 1985. He also was city attorney for South St. Paul (1947-49), a municipal judge (1950-58) and a regional enforcement director for the Office of Price Stabilization (1951-52).

He had been president of the Friends of the Library group in South St. Paul, president of the South St. Paul Lions Club, a member of the board of governors of the Minnesota State Bar Association and a member of the state Korean Bonus Appeal Board.

He is survived by his wife, Marian; a son, William of Hastings; a sister, Margaret Green of West St. Paul and three grandchildren.

Private services will be held today at English and Meeker Funeral Home in South St. Paul.



Paul A. Thuet Jr. (1974 photo)