

MacMannus, former state senator, dies

By MIKE PATTY

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Donald Howard MacMannus, veteran Adams County Democrat who served four terms and was assistant minority leader in the Colorado Senate, died of cancer Sunday in Presbyterian Denver Hospital. He was 61.



MacMannus

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, in Riverside Baptist Church, 2401 Alcott St. Burial will be in Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Mr. MacMannus, a state senator from 1968 to 1984, had a reputation for voting his conscience, even if it meant opposing his party.

"His legacy to present and future legislators is: Don't be afraid to stand behind the issues you believe in," said Ray Kogovsek, former congressman and minority leader in the Colorado Senate with Mr. MacMannus.

"He was his own man, yet he was a loyal Democrat. We understood each other and I could always count on him. He was a very affable guy, very gregarious and fun to be around."

During his legislative career, he was the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and he once ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor.

Born Sept. 10, 1928, in Des Moines, Iowa, Mr. MacMannus moved to Colorado where he graduated from Golden High School in 1946. He then joined the Army and served two years in South Korea.

He married LaVerna Van Meter on June 25, 1950.

Before his election to the the Senate in 1968, Mr. MacMannus was a salesman, manager and later a lobbyist and public relations representative for the food industry. He was chief executive officer for the Rocky Mountain Food Dealers Association and served on the national boards of the National Association of Retail Grocers and Food Industry Association Executives.

At the time of his death, Mr. MacMannus was director of western operations for the Food Marketing Institute in Washington, D.C.

"Don MacMannus was an industry statesman in the fullest sense of the term," said Robert O. Aders, FMI president. "His special talent combined the tact of a legislator, the common sense of a businessman and the leadership of an association executive. Few people can operate in all three spheres, much less excel to the extent that Don did."

Besides his life-long involvement in the Democratic Party, Mr. MacMannus was an active member of Riverside Baptist Church, the St. Andrew's Society and the Thornton American Legion.

His survivors include his wife, LaVerna; two sons, Jon and Chris MacMannus of Denver; two daughters, Marge Emerling and Lynn Callison of Denver; his mother, Thelma MacMannus of Denver; a sister, Barbara Rairden of Schenectady, N.Y.; his grandmother, Anna MacMannus of Denver; and six grandchildren.