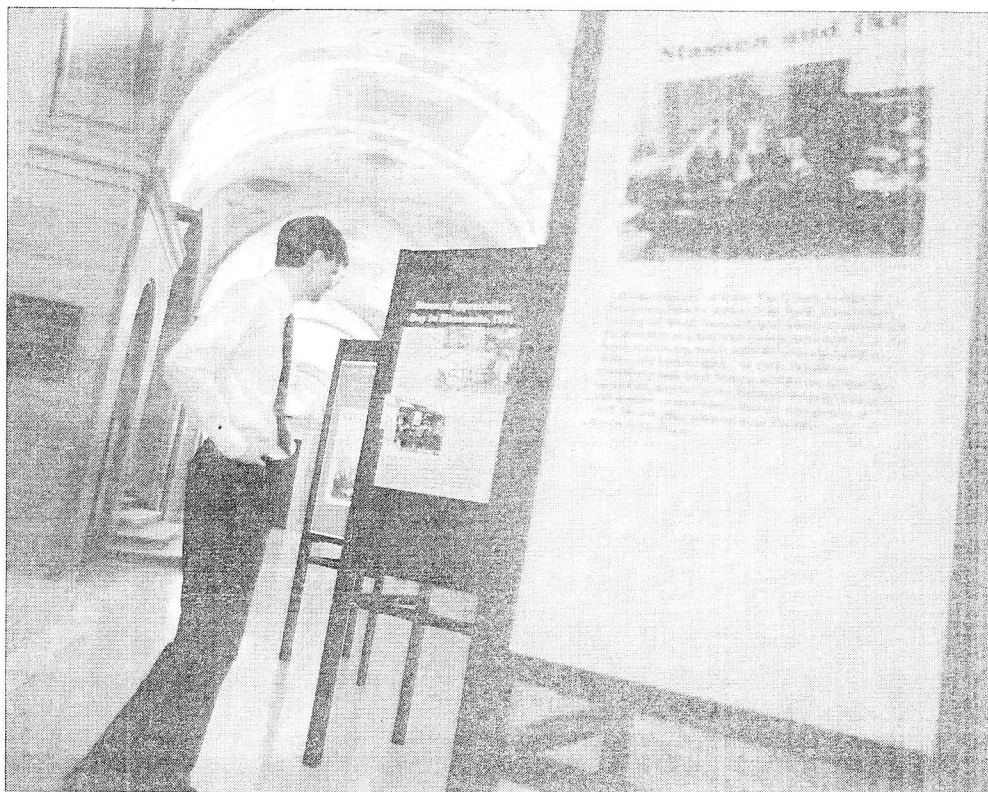




Brian Pease of the Minnesota Historical Society read one of the display panels on the life of former Gov. Harold Stassen on Thursday in the State Capitol rotunda, where Stassen's body will lie in state today. Gov. Jesse Ventura said, "A lot of people didn't realize the impact Governor Stassen had."

Star Tribune photo by Kyndell Harkness



# Stassen will lie in state at Capitol today

*Public welcome to pay respects to ex-governor, view mementos*

By Dane Smith  
Star Tribune Staff Writer

Former Gov. Harold Stassen will lie in state today in the State Capitol rotunda, the first time in 20 years a Minnesota political leader has received that honor.

Gov. Jesse Ventura is encouraging Minnesotans to pay their respects to Stassen, who died Sunday in Bloomington at age 93.

"A lot of people didn't realize the impact Governor Stassen had," Ventura said, noting that his many failed candidacies in later years overshadowed a "remarkable career."

Many Minnesotans came of age after Stassen had passed from the national scene, and public attendance at the Stassen observance is expected to be light.

In 1938, at 31, Stassen became the youngest governor ever elected in the United States, and he was a major influence in state and national government from the late 1930s through the 1950s, including the founding of the United Nations and as a top adviser to President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Ventura, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe, House Speaker Steve Sviggum and a Stassen family member are scheduled to give brief remarks at 9 a.m. in the rotunda. Stassen's body will lie in state from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

A small exhibit of campaign buttons, pictures and

## At a glance:

The public is invited to pay respects to former Gov. Harold Stassen, who will lie in state today at the State Capitol.

➤ **Where:** State Capitol rotunda.

➤ **When:** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

➤ **What:** At 9 a.m., Gov. Jesse Ventura, Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe and House Speaker Steve Sviggum will deliver remarks. Stassen memorabilia and a bust of the former governor will be on display.

and a bust of the governor as a young man will be on display.

There apparently are no rules about who receives the honor of lying in state. It seems to be almost a matter of instinct and consensus, state officials say.

Stassen's family requested the honor and Ventura promptly granted it, aides to the governor say.

It is believed that eight Minnesotans before Stassen have lain in state at the Capitol.

Resolutions commemorating Stassen have been read and approved this week in the state Legislature and the U.S. Senate.

Funeral services for Stassen will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Riverview Baptist Church, 14 Moreland Av. E., West St. Paul. Burial will follow at Acacia Cemetery in Mendota Heights.

Dane Smith can be contacted

## Minnesotans who have lain in state

It is believed that eight people in Minnesota's history have lain in state at the State Capitol.

- **1905: Col. William Colvill.** Led the First Minnesota Regiment in a heroic counterattack on the second day of the battle of Gettysburg, the turning point in the Civil War. Colvill died as he and other aged veterans were organizing a transfer of battle flags from the old Capitol building to the newly completed, current Capitol building. His body lay in state in the west corridor near the governor's office.
- **1909: Gov. John A. Johnson.** Considered a progressive reformer and a leading contender for the Democratic presidential nomination, the vigorous young Johnson died in office at age 48 after surgery from an intestinal problem. An estimated 50,000 mourners passed by his casket.
- **1923: U.S. Sen. Knute Nelson.** A Republican and one of the state's longest-serving senators, with 28 years. He also had served as governor and U.S. representative, and was a Civil War veteran. Born in Norway, he was one of the first in a long line of Scandinavian-Americans to dominate Minnesota politics. He died at age 80 on a train ride home from Washington, D.C.
- **1935: U.S. Sen. Thomas Schall.** A Republican senator, he was fatally injured at age 58 when struck by a car while crossing a street in Washington, D.C. Schall, who was blind, served in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate from 1915 to 1935.
- **1936: Gov. Floyd B. Olson.** The Farmer-Labor Party champion of Depression-era workers and farmers died of cancer at age 44 while still in office. An estimated 200,000 mourners filed past his bier at the Capitol, and his funeral at the Minneapolis Auditorium drew 150,000, many of whom gathered outside to listen to the service on loud-speakers.
- **1978: U.S. Sen. Hubert Humphrey.** The former vice president, 1968 Democratic presidential nominee and Minneapolis mayor was back in the Senate when he died of cancer at age 66. An estimated 40,000 mourners turned out in freezing weather on a January day to pay respects at the state Capitol. The "Happy Warrior" also lay in state in the U.S. Capitol.
- **1979: State Sen. Bob Lewis.** One of Minnesota's first African-American legislators. He died of a heart attack while in office, at age 47, and was a civil rights and community leader, a veterinarian and a Korean War veteran.
- **1981: State Senate Majority Leader Nick Coleman.** He was a prime force behind the growth of state government and the DFL Party's dominance in the 1970s. Coleman had been a senator for 18 years and majority leader for eight years when his leukemia was diagnosed in 1980. He didn't run for reelection in 1980 and died in early March 1981 at age 56, two months after his term ended.

Source: Minnesota Historical Society



In 1944, students in Chicago sought to nominate Stassen.



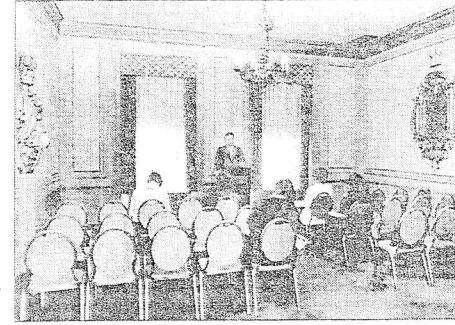
Time magazine profiled Stassen in August 1947.



Football team met new University of Pennsylvania president in fall 1948.



Stassen conferred with President Dwight Eisenhower at the White House in 1955.



Few reporters showed up as Stassen announced his 1976 presidential bid in Philadelphia.



# Harold Stassen: a grandfather to remember



RACHEL E. STASSEN-BERGER  
STAFF WRITER

My grandfather, Harold Stassen, loved to tell about the success his father, a truck farmer, had at the St. Paul market selling his wares. Pointing to a basket of ripe, beautiful tomatoes, his father would say it was good

"through and through."

Unlike some farmers, who would put the good-looking produce on top and leave the unlovely fruit hidden, his father insisted that every piece in the basket was equally succulent, my grandfather said. Although it was not the quickest way to make money, my great-grandfather was stubborn

and honest, two traits he passed on to his son.

My grandfather, like those baskets of fruit, was the same through and through. He did not have a public face and a private face or any guile to hide behind. Although his methods were not necessarily

## STASSEN HONORED TODAY

Former  
Minnesota Gov.  
Harold Stassen  
will lie in state  
today at the  
state Capitol.  
Details, Page 8A

STASSEN CONTINUED ON 8A ▶

## Stassen

▼ CONTINUED FROM 1A

the best way to win public accolades, particularly later in his life, that was simply the way he was.

The spectacular accomplishments of his life were not just what he did; they were in every fiber of his being. He was a fighter for peace, an advocate for negotiation and a man who believed, as he once wrote, that the fate of political advocates is irrelevant compared with the importance of the ideas being advocated.

Recently I asked him what gave him the confidence to take the steps to accomplish all he did. How did he, a student from a one-room schoolhouse, decide that he should go to law school while still in his teens? How did he know he could complete his college education and become a leader on campus, while working as a pan greaser at a commercial bakery and a Pullman train car conductor? He never had an answer.

He never felt special or different from those around him, he said. He went on to talk of the marvelous abilities of his brothers and sister and his immigrant mother and father. He talked of the teams of people who supported him and helped him and urged him on. He believed he was fortunate to have been able to do the work he did. He did not think he was a child of destiny.

What was destined in his life was his love for my grandmother, Esther Glewwe Stassen. She was, he said, his partner in everything he did. He credited her with keeping him going when he had tuberculosis in the 1930s, saving the United Nations charter conference from deadlock, being a helpmate in the many variations of the busy life they lived.

Their love, which began for him when he saw her as a 12-year-old running a race at a church picnic, lasted every moment of their 70 years together. In their final years, his mission was taking care of her. When she died in October, he said he did not know how to live without her. The last five months, he struggled to see if he could. Sunday morning at 4 a.m. — just a few hours after he asked me when he could be back with her — I believe he decided he couldn't.

Everyone who saw my grandparents together, heard my grandfather's pride at my grandmother's prize-winning art or call her his queen, his darling and his love could not help but be moved by the devotion. There is one of the truest love stories I have ever seen.

That powerful pride extended to all my family. Each time he saw any of us he would ask, "What is

## He knew the many things that could be accomplished in one single life.

new with your world?" As soon as we were able to talk, he would include each of us in the family holiday ritual of going around the table and saying what we did during the past year and what we hoped to do in the next year. Although the shy among us would sometimes try to demur, he would stubbornly persist. For him, this was no matter of politeness. He had an unquenchable curiosity about the world around him and the lives of others.

Just as he knew few limits for the boundless things he accomplished in his life, he would have us accept few limits. When my mother, his daughter, ran for school board in New York City, he encouraged her to run for mayor. When I showed my first interest in journalism, he decided I should be an international columnist.

At the same time, he would not have us, or anyone in the world, feel less than valued. He did not expect more from us than he believed we could do. He knew, and showed everyone in the world, the many things that could be accomplished in one single life.

Despite all those accomplishments, he leaves behind much to do. He would not want talk of his legacy; he often said he was more concerned for the future than reliving the past. He would want us to continue to show the respect for ourselves, our world and even our enemies, that he showed all his life.

As his granddaughter, I am incredibly proud of his successes that have been acclaimed by the world in the recent days since his death. But I am also deeply saddened that I cannot talk to the proud, honest, stubborn, tender, private man I have been lucky enough to have as a grandfather.

Rachel E. Stassen-Berger can be reached at  
[rstassen-berger@pioneerpress.com](mailto:rstassen-berger@pioneerpress.com) or  
(612) 336-8198.

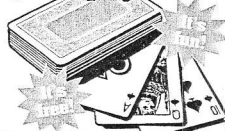
Mar. 9, 2001  
C#1909



# Sun Current

March 14, 2001

Play poker in  
your pajamas!



\$3,000 in cash & prizes given away each month!

www.mnSun.com

## A native son comes home

Statesman Harold Stassen laid to rest

By Heather J. Carlson  
Sun Newspapers

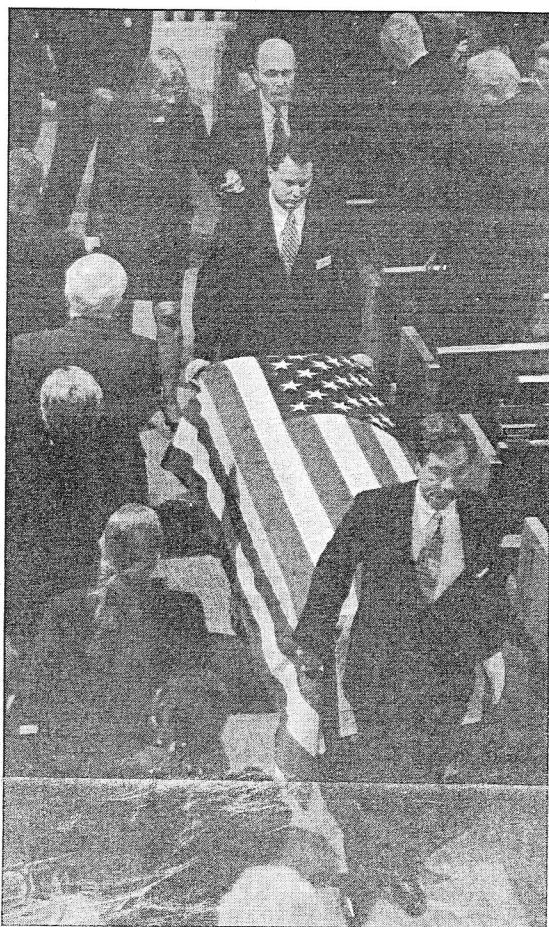
Clouds filled the West St. Paul sky March 10 as people streamed into Riverview Baptist Church to pay their last respects to former Gov. Harold Stassen.

Several dignitaries, including Gov. Jesse Ventura, former Gov. Elmer Anderson and Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., joined the mourners in honoring Stassen's life as a statesman and international peacemaker.

Stassen may never have accomplished those feats had it not been for the values instilled in him as a boy growing up in West St. Paul, said his son Glen.

Stassen was born in 1907 on a vegetable farm near the present-day intersection of South Robert Street and Wentworth Avenue. His father, William Stassen, worked as a tomato farmer and sold his produce every weekend at the St. Paul Farmer's Market.

Although Stassen's father had only a sixth-grade education, he served two terms as West St. Paul mayor and was



David Eyestone/Sun Newspapers

The coffin containing the body of former Gov. Harold Stassen is carried out of Riverview Baptist Church in West St. Paul

the treasurer for a grower's association covering seven counties.

"Dad's known for integrity," Glen said. "And I think that his West St. Paul farmer father is a

key part of that."

Religion also played a pivotal role in Stassen's life as a boy. Stassen was baptized at Riverview Baptist Church and would remain an active participant in the church throughout his life.

"I think the integrity that he is known for and the caring for people comes a lot out of [attending church]," Glen said.

Stassen also met the future love of his life, South St. Paul resident Esther Glewwe, through a church picnic.

"He really first noticed her at a Sunday school picnic when she was 12 years old and she won a foot race and her pigtails were streaming out behind her as she ran," his son said. "He was really impressed."

At age 14, Stassen graduated from Humboldt High School. He later graduated from the University of Minnesota with a law degree and became Dakota County attorney at the age of 23. He married Esther and moved to South St. Paul.

Glen said serving as the county attorney during the Great Depression taught his father the value of peacemaking, which would later motivate him to help found the United Nations.

## Lung Association wants river bluff site

Mendota Heights hilltop sought by 'Target Market' sponsor

By Merrilly Helgeson  
Sun Newspapers

A Mendota Heights bluff overlooking the Mississippi River is being sought for the new headquarters of the American Lung Association of Minnesota.

American Lung Association representatives told the Mendota Heights City Council March 6 they had signed a purchase agreement on the 8.5-acre site near Acacia Cemetery.

The organization has headed up the anti-tobacco "target market" advertising campaign on a \$1 million contract with the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco. The money came from the 1997 settlement of the state's lawsuit against cigarette manufacturers.

The proposed location above the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, called the "Garron site" on city records, lies directly across from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. It is the same site that Mendota's Dakota Community proposed last October for an American Indian museum.

Jerry Orr, a Lung Association representative, told the council his organization wants to erect a two- or three-story, 60,000-square-foot office building. Two-thirds of it would be leased to other tenants, he said.

The association currently is in St. Paul, in a Crocus Hill building a spokesman said it had outgrown.

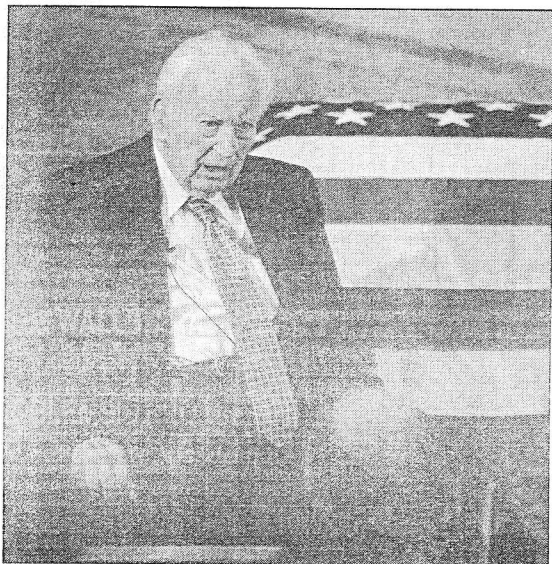
The association's bid drew a lukewarm reception from the Mendota Heights City Council.

"This particular site has great significance," Councilmember Sandra Krebsbach said. "My feeling has been it should either be available to people or bring a great return to the city financially. This doesn't do either."

Mayor Charles Mertensotto said the site "is the foremost developable site in the city."

"In the whole metro area," Krebsbach prompted. Mertensotto agreed.

The mayor said the Lung Association should not expect financial help from the city. "If you're thinking of taking a choice spot and getting back a return, it's not there," he said.



David Eyestone/Sun Newspapers