



Rudy Perpich

June 27, 1928 - September 21, 1995

Minnetonka, Minnesota

Rudy Perpich - Rudolph George Perpich Sr. - dentist turned Democratic-Farmer-Labor politician and Minnesota's longest-serving governor, died in Minnetonka, Minnesota, on September 21, 1995, of colon cancer. He was sixty-seven. Born June 27, 1928, on the Iron Range in Carson Lake (now part of Hibbing), he practiced dentistry, entered the state senate, became lieutenant governor, and then governor - first by succession in 1976, then by election, defeat, and a historic comeback.

He served as the 34th and 36th governor, promoting international trade, education, and a publicity style that put Minnesota on the map - including the much-mocked (and much-remembered) idea of a "Can Do" state. He backed the Mall of America project's early development climate, courted foreign investment, and remained a Range politician at heart even when governing from Saint Paul. After leaving office he worked in trade and consulting, never fully leaving public life's orbit.

Cancer ended the second act. Minnetonka was the last address for a man whose accent and Iron Range roots never softened into generic Midwestern polish. Minnesotans still argue about his showmanship; fewer dispute that he made the governorship a visible, restless office.

He died in Minnetonka on September 21, 1995. The Range still claims him; the statehouse record still lists two separate tenures.

Perpich's gift was restless promotion - selling Minnesota to the world without forgetting the ore towns that raised him. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so September 21 remembers the Iron Range dentist who became

the state's longest-serving governor.

Services

Died in Minnetonka, Minnesota, September 21, 1995. 34th and 36th Governor of Minnesota; dentist; Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party leader from the Iron Range.

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