

Martha's public service career began in 1948 with two terms in the Michigan Legislature. From there she went on to become the first woman judge in Detroit's old criminal court system.

In 1954, she became the second woman elected to the United States House of Representatives from Michigan, and began a distinguished 20-year career as a legislator.

In the House, Martha became an advocate for reviving our cities, increasing aid to education, promoting tax relief for struggling families and making sure that every man, woman and child in America had access to health care.

But Martha was best known for her work in civil rights and the rights of women. She was not only an early and avid supporter of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, but she got Congress to approve an amendment she authored to include women in the bill by shaming the men in the House Chambers into voting for it.

"A vote against this amendment today by a man is a vote against his wife or his widow or his daughter or his sister," she told them.

In 1970, Martha gathered the 218 signatures needed for a rare discharge petition that forced the Equal Rights Amendment to the floor of the House after it had languished in committee for nearly 50 years.

Martha left the House in 1974, and joined several corporate boards including the former Chrysler Corporation and Consumers Power Company—companies that had never had women on their boards before.

In 1982, Martha began her final tour of public service when she was sworn in as Michigan's first woman Lieutenant Governor. I had the pleasure of working with her as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives through much of her tenure.

And the day she was sworn in as lieutenant governor, Martha also became the first woman in Michigan's history to serve in all three branches of government.

Giants such as Martha Wright Griffiths moved us closer to realizing our Nation's promise of equal justice and opportunity for each and every citizen.

Her passing reminds us that it is now our turn to square our shoulders and stand tall for the generations of Americans to come. ●

TRIBUTE TO BERT SANDBERG

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following two tributes honoring the life of the late Bert Sandberg—steadfast businessman, World War II veteran, and longtime friend of the city of St. Paul—be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Star Tribune, Apr. 29, 2003]

TRIBUTE TO BERT SANDBERG

(By Tony Kennedy)

He claimed to have eaten the first steak served at Mancini's Char House and in 1977

he received an award for ridding St. Paul streets of Dutch Elm diseases.

A building contractor with major credits in downtown St. Paul, Bert Sandberg also was known for his labor on the basketball court, playing tenaciously at the St. Paul Athletic Club and other gyms until he was 75 years old.

The decorated World War II veteran and acclaimed prep athlete from Mechanic Arts High School died Sunday of liver cancer. He was 77. Although he was not in the public spotlight, Sandberg was politically well-connected and kept a running friendship with the city's mayors, occasionally offering them advice on how to improve the Capital City.

"There's no such thing as having just a moment with Bert," St. Paul Deputy Mayor Dennis Flaherty said last week. "He loves to tell stories.

Flaherty said Sandberg never asked the city for anything, but often was "below the radar" helping private citizens and supporting various city initiatives. Among other things, he was a supporter of the St. Paul Winter Carnival.

Sandberg's Swedish immigrant parents raised him in a house on the corner of 9th and Wacouta Sts. in an area of downtown St. Paul now known as Lowertown. He married Carol Ziniel of St. Paul in 1952 and moved to Mendota Heights, where they raised one boy and two girls. But Sandberg never sold the lot where he grew up.

"He's a guy who sincerely loves St. Paul," Flaherty said.

Sandberg's daughter, Leslie a press secretary for state Attorney General Mike Hatch, said her dad was appropriately featured in a history of Minnesota members of the so-called Greatest Generation that came of age during the 1930s and '40s, survived the Great Depression and World War II and build the foundation for modern-day America.

After graduating from Mechanic Arts High School in 1943, he enlisted in the Navy and served three years in the South Pacific during World War II. Sandberg worked on a Landing Ship Tank, or LST boat, that was used to deploy troops and equipment on foreign shores. He was awarded a Silver Star and five Bronze Stars, his daughter said.

Sandberg had finished near the bottom of his class at Mechanic Arts, but when he returned from war he wiggled his way in to Augsburg College. He not only graduated, but he later returned to serve on the school's Board of Regents from 1968-1980.

"His focus was to encourage the college to take a chance on students who otherwise might not make it in," Leslie Sandberg said.

Her father was drafted after college to play football for the Philadelphia Eagles, but he waived the opportunity and instead joined his father's business, St. Paul-based N.H. Sandberg Erection Co. Sandberg started at the firm as an ironworker, but he eventually took over the company and expanded it to include worldwide crane and heavy equipment rentals.

"My dad traveled all over the world and he'd say, 'St. Paul is the best city. Why would you want to live anywhere else?'" Leslie Sandberg said.

The firm's downtown St. Paul building credits include the federal courthouse, the St. Paul Hilton Hotel (now the Radisson Riverfront), the Osborn Building, the Northwestern Bell Telephone Building and many skyways.

When George Latimer was mayor, Sandberg was given an award for quickly and efficiently removing diseased elm trees from all over the city. And in 1999, when the St. Paul City Conference celebrated its centennial as a high school athletic conference, Sandberg was chosen as the best athlete

from 1943. At Mechanic Arts he was a baseball player, a speedster in track and a stand-out in basketball and football.

Leslie Sandberg said her father's list of achievements wouldn't be complete without a mention of his part as an extra in the movie "Might Ducks III." He is pictured in the movie as a counter patron at Mickey's Diner.

"He just loved that," his daughter Leslie said. "He never cashed his paycheck."

Sandberg, who was born in St. Paul on July 28, 1925, is survived by his wife, Carol; daughters Leslie of Mendota Heights and Susan of Los Angeles; and son Nels of Philadelphia. Services are pending.

[From the Pioneer Press, Apr. 30, 2003]

Bert Sandberg, who helped build much of the modern skyline of St. Paul and was one of the city's biggest boosters, died Sunday of liver cancer at his home in Mendota Heights. He was 77.

Sandberg was owner of Sandberg Erection Co., which built the steel foundation for the federal courts building, the Marshall Field's store, the St. Paul Radisson Riverfront Hotel, the Ecolab Building, a Qwest Building, the First National Bank Building, the former West Publishing Building and most of the city's skyways.

"He and his company were involved in probably all of the major buildings in downtown St. Paul," said Dennis Flaherty, deputy mayor. "He was full of energy and excitement for St. Paul. Every time he'd see me, he'd offer a new suggestion."

One of Sandberg's daughters, Leslie, said her father loved to take the family on a drive when the children were young. He would point at various buildings and say, "You know what? We built that."

Sandberg was a friend of many St. Paul mayors over the years, including George Latimer, Norm Coleman and Randy Kelly.

"My father was a character," Leslie Sandberg said. "He knew everybody."

Sandberg got a role as an extra in the "Mighty Ducks III" movie when the director, Steven Brill, spotted Sandberg golfing at the Town and Country Club and the two men began a conversation. Brill recognized a good character and told Sandberg not to shave, and Sandberg portrayed a local at a scene in Mickey's Diner.

In 1990, Gov. Rudy Perpich appointed Sandberg as a representative of the city of St. Paul to meet with Mikhail Gorbachev, then president of the Soviet Union, who was visiting Minnesota.

Sandberg was a member of the Board of Regents at Augsburg College in Minneapolis from 1968 to 1980 and was a longtime member of the St. Paul Athletic Club.

An outstanding athlete, he once had an offer to play professional football but decided he was too small. He played basketball twice a week until he was 75.

"He had a great set shot," Leslie Sandberg said.

He used cranes and chain saws to remove dying elm trees on Summit Avenue, and Mayor Latimer presented him with an award in 1977 for helping battle the scourge of Dutch elm disease.

He served with the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

In addition to daughter Leslie, Sandberg is survived by his wife, Carol, Mendota Heights; daughter Susan, Los Angeles, and son Nels, Philadelphia.

Visitation is from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday at O'Halloran and Murphy Funeral Home in St. Paul. The funeral is at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Salem Lutheran Church in West St. Paul with burial at Sunset Memorial Cemetery in Minneapolis. ●