

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of **Representative** Coleman, C. Joseph **Senator** Coleman,
C. Joseph - Represented Humboldt, Webster and Polk Counties, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 14 Mar 1923 Clare, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place
(1) Katherine Ann Burkens 27 Oct 1945

(2) Polly Pflanz 16 Jan 1954

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Webster County Outstanding Young Farmer in 1957; Director of
the Union Trust and Savings Bank, United Central Bank, First State, State
Banks and Boatmen's Bank.

B. Civic responsibilities _____

C. Profession Farmer

4. Church membership Catholic

5. Sessions served 57th 58th 59th 60th General Assemblies 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963-

6. Public Offices 61st, 62nd, 63rd General Assemblies 1967, 1969, 1970 Senate
House of Representatives

A. Local _____

B. State _____

C. National _____

7. Death 26 July 2002 Fort Dodge, Iowa; buried St James Cemetery, Clare, Iowa

8. Children By 1st wife - C. Joseph Jr.; Candace Ann (provided his father in
death); Kevin Gerard; by 2nd wife - Kersey Raymond (provided his father in
death)

9. Names of parents David and Geneva Coleman

10. Education Educated in St. Matthew's elementary school
and Clark High School, Clark, Iowa

11. Degrees Attended Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, graduate of
Bradley University in Missouri

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- After college he worked for the Iowa Conservation Service
- His first wife, Katherine, died Dec 1950.
- In 1947 he began his farming career with his father
and lived there until his death.
- He was the first President of the Iowa Soy Bean Association
for 11 years.
- He was also the President of the American Soy Bean Association

C. JOSEPH COLEMAN

CLARE — C. Joseph Coleman, 79, of Clare, passed away on Friday July 26, 2002, at the Bickford Cottages.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 9:45 in the chapel of Lauferseweiler-Sievers Funeral Home and 10:30 a.m. at St. Matthew's Church in Clare, with the Rev. Laurence Burns officiating at the Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in St. James Cemetery, Clare. Friends may call after 4 p.m. on Monday. There will be Knights of Columbus Rosary at 6:30 p.m. and a vigil for the deceased at 7 p.m., all at the funeral home.

Joe is survived by Polly, his wife of 48 years; sons, C. Joseph Jr., Kevin Gerard, and Kerry. Eight grandchildren also survive as well as a brother Dan Coleman of New York; and five sisters, Dolores Roe of Des Moines, Denise Ritschel of Peoria, Ill., Patricia Coleman of Fort Dodge, Marcia Castricone of Las Vegas, Nev., Karen Tuohy of Ft. Wayne Ind., many nieces and nephews, and one aunt Cecelia Bales of Manson. He was preceded in death by a daughter, a son, his father, Daniel, his mother, Geneva, and a sister, Dorothy Ryan of Lincoln Neb.

C. Joseph Coleman was born March 14, 1923, to Daniel and Geneva Coleman of Clare. He attended St. Matthews elementary and high school in Clare, attended Iowa State College in Ames, and graduated from Bradley University in Illinois. After college he went to work for the Iowa Conservation Service. On October 27, 1945, he married Katherine Ann Burken of Des Moines. They had three children: C. Joseph Jr., attorney-at-law in Fort Dodge; Candace Ann, deceased; and Kevin Gerard, Director of Shakespeare at Lenox, Mass. Katherine passed away of cancer in December 1950.

On January 16, 1954, he married Polly Pillay of Des Moines.

GLADYS R. McCHESNEY
ROCKWELL CITY

Iowa. They had two sons: Kerry, who farms at Clare, and Raymond, deceased.

In 1947, Joe began his farming career on the Coleman Century Farm with his father, and resided on the farm until his death. For thirty years he raised seed corn for the Garst and Thomas Company. He was Webster County's Outstanding Young Farmer in 1957 and was a State finalist for the honor.

In his sojourn of life, Joe was an originator. He was the first President of the Iowa Soy Bean Association, serving for 11 years. He was also the President of the American Soy Bean Association. In furtherance of the association's goals, his travels took him as far away as Taiwan, China, Munich, Germany, and Mexico City, Mexico.

Always the student of history and avid teacher, he pursued his desire for politics. He was elected as a State senator in 1956, as a Democrat. He held this position for 34 years, a record in the State of Iowa. As Senator, Coleman held every leadership position in the Iowa Senate, including President Pro Tem of the Senate. He was appointed by Governor Hughes to the Iowa Development Commission, served on the Appropriations Committee for 30 years, and was a charter member of the 520 Highway Association. In 1976 he was appointed to the State Bicentennial Committee, and in 1996 the Sesquicentennial Commission.

He was always interested in local projects. In 1976, he procured one million dollars for the Brushy Creek Project and was an avid supporter of the project, seeing it to fruition. He also served as a director of the Union Trust & Savings Bank, United Central Bank, First Interstate Bank and Boatman's Bank. He was instrumental in securing the dredging of Twin Lakes, making it the recreational area it is today.

He was a lifetime member of St. Matthews Catholic Church in Clare, and lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus, being a 4th Degree Knight.

Memorials may be left to the discretion of the family or to Hospice of Fort Dodge.

JOANNE LENNARSON
CLARION, Iowa

RICHARD A. LINDBERG

Richard A. Lindberg, 87, of Friendship Haven, died Saturday, July 27, 2002, at Tompkins Memorial Health Center.

Graveside services will be held on Tuesday July 30 at 1 p.m. at the St. Olaf Cemetery, Fort Dodge, with the Rev. William Trembly officiating. There will be no visitation. The Lauferseweiler-Sievers Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents George and Julia (Omann) Lindberg.

Richard A Lindberg was born December 30, 1914, on the family farm in Elkhorn Township. He attended school in Moorland, graduating from the Moorland High School. He was united in marriage to Kathryn Klein at Corpus Christi Church. The couple established their home on the family farm in Elkhorn Township. His wife Kathryn taught for many years at the Moorland community school. She passed away in 1989. Richard spent nearly his entire life being raised and working on the family farm.

Author, artist Esphyr Slobodkina dead at 93

GLEN HEAD, N.Y. (AP) — Esphyr Slobodkina, an abstract artist who wrote and illustrated children's books, died Sunday. She was 93.

Slobodkina wrote "Caps for Sale," which tells the tale of a cap salesman who encounters a band of playful monkeys who take his caps up a tree. First published in 1938, the book continues to sell steadily.

Born in Siberia, Slobodkina came to the U.S. at age 20 and got her start in children's books during the Depression, when she illustrated several books by Margaret Wise Brown, the author of "Good Night Moon."

Lauferseweiler & Sievers

FUNERAL HOME
307 S. 12th St.
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
(515) 576-3156

TUESDAY
C. JOSEPH COLEMAN, 79
Clare

them apprised.

Reaching the men, who were believed to be in a 4-foot high chamber, was sometimes painfully slow. Drilling a rescue shaft to the men, age 30 to 55, didn't begin until more than 20 hours after the accident, because workers had to wait for a drill rig to arrive from West Virginia. And drilling was halted early Friday morning because a 1,500-pound drill bit broke after hitting hard rock about 100 feet down.

See MINERS, Page 2A

nose to "awaken" him.

The history of dragon boating can be traced back to 295 B.C.. A man named Qu Yuan, from the Chinese kingdom of Chu, threw himself into the Mi Lo River in a desperate protest against the corrupt government. Local fishermen jumped into their boats and raced to save Qu Yuan, but were unsuccessful.

Dragon boating is one of the most popular events on the Chinese calendar today, second only to the Chinese New Year.

There are more than 20 local

boat — a steersman, drummer and flag catcher.

Heats consisted of two drag-on boats racing against each other for time. Time is called when the flag catcher grabs a flag at the finish line and throws it into the water. Teams were chosen to enter the semifinal and final races based on the total time of their heats.

The British Airways Hurricanes were one of the international teams taking part in this

See BOATS, Page 2A

MICHELL team during

Former Sen. Joe Coleman, longtime lawmaker, dies

By SANDY MICKELSON
Messenger staff writer

Every time a driver makes a right-hand turn at a red stop light, he has retired Democratic Sen. C. Joseph Coleman to thank for that.

Every time a child splashes on the shore of Twin Lakes, Coleman can be thanked for that, too.

Legislation for the right turn on red and the dredging of Twin Lakes are among the bills the former senator considered his most important work.

Coleman, a legislator longer than any other person in state history, died Friday at Bickford Cottages. He was 79.

Funeral services will be at 9:45 a.m. Tuesday in the chapel of Laufersweiler-Sievers Funeral Home and at 10:30 a.m. in St. Matthew Catholic Church in Clare. Burial will be in St. James Cemetery in Clare.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 4 p.m. Monday. There will be a Knights of Columbus rosary at 6:30 p.m. Monday followed by a vigil for

See COLEMAN, Page 2A



Messenger file photo

AFTER JOE COLEMAN was elected Senate majority whip, his secretary presented him with a real whip. Coleman, 79, served a record 34 years as an Iowa lawmaker. He died Friday.

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Coleman

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the deceased at 7 p.m.

The former senator died of cancer after being at Bickford Cottages for about three weeks. He was diagnosed with cancer 12 years ago and had surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., at that time, and recovered from the surgery.

"About three years ago, there was a recurrence, and he was not expected to live," said his daughter-in-law, Sam Coleman. He recovered then, too.

"We expected to lose him on Tuesday," she said. "The hospice nurses said, 'We just don't know how to predict this because Joe Coleman's the only one who's ever graduated from hospice before. But he was able to fight the battle and wait for his one son to arrive.'"

Family gathered at Coleman's bedside early Friday afternoon," she said. "We had this beautiful circle."

After a few hours, with Coleman holding on, most family members went to dinner or went home. A son, Kevin Coleman, was expected to arrive at 9:40 p.m.; the senator died at 9:42

p.m., with his son, Joe Coleman Jr., and Sam at his side.

"I am fully convinced that it was his way of showing us that he waited," Sam Coleman said. "He was a very unique, and a very special man. I'm sure we'll be surprised at the number of people who step in and say, 'Your father helped me once when I needed help.' I think there are hundreds of people out there" with stories like that.

Family members agree it was Coleman's love of the people that kept him in politics for so long.

"He loved being a senator," Joe Coleman Jr. said. "He really enjoyed being with the people. He turned down the chance to be lieutenant governor because he loved working with the people."

The younger Coleman said his father had once been asked by Gov. Harold Hughes to run for the position of lieutenant governor, but he declined. He didn't want to leave the Legislature. He wanted to stay in contact with the people he represented.

"Not only did he know every blade of grass in Webster County, he knew everybody's name,

too," Joe Jr. said. "Even after he quit politics, he felt responsible for the people he knew and loved."

The younger Coleman talked easily about his father and his father's work; a catch in his throat belying the calm once he started to talk about early family life.

"After my mother died until he remarried, he raised my brother and me as a single father," Joe Jr. said. "He did a wonderful job. It's something for which I'll always be grateful."

It wasn't always an easy matter, though.

Sen. Coleman stood his ground on anything that mattered to him, even under threats.

"When they were talking about vending machines for cigarettes in Iowa, Dad received a lot of threats," Joe Jr. said. "They wanted him to vote for the machines. He was a smoker himself, but he thought it was inappropriate to allow machines where anyone could get the cigarettes. At that time, we had people watching my brother and me when we went to school. Dad never buckled."

The issue of mandated use of

seat belts

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Miners

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A second rescue shaft was started and it wasn't until Saturday that measurable progress was being made on both shafts.

Pumps had been draining the mine of some 50 to 60 million gallons of water for days, but it was not known how much, if any, water had been in the chamber where the miners were believed to be.

The rescuers worked cautiously toward the miners because they feared compromising a hollowed-out section of coal seam believed to be about 4 feet high, which may have been partially

They suffered gut-wrenching setbacks, including a broken drill

bit Friday that delayed the effort by 18 hours.

Even though there had been no contact with the miners since Thursday when tapping was heard on an air hole, workers had remained optimistic they were alive.

"If there's any slogan (among the rescue workers) it's 'nine-for-nine,'" Schweiker said before the drill broke through. "We're bringing up nine of our guys."

Atmospheric devices were in place to measure the levels of oxygen, carbon dioxide and methane in the chamber, said of the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Helicopters were standing by to whisk miners from the scene 55 miles southeast of Pittsburgh to hospitals, and medical personnel were set to immediately treat injuries or hypothermia.

Nine decompression chambers also were at the scene. Medical personnel said the air pressure on the miners could be as much as experienced at 40 feet underwater, and the men could suffer the bends — bubbles in the bloodstream caused by rapid changes in pressure — once they were rescued.

Air was being pumped into the chamber in hopes of raising the temperature more than 100 degrees in the hope that it would warm the men.

Continued from Page 1A

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The issue of mandated use of

seat belts caused a lot of grief for the senator, too, it seems.

"There were cartoons in the Register about his being against seat belts," Joe Jr. said. "He was totally in favor of them personally and for his family. He just thought it was a government intrusion, and he thought we had way too much government."

"He thought the same thing about motorcycle helmets. He thought anyone who rode a motorcycle without a helmet was foolish, but he thought here are some areas the government just ought to stay out of."

It was the abortion issue in the 1990 election that finally beat him, Joe Jr. said.

"He lost by 137 votes to Jim Kersten, but Dad was never against women's rights. His problem was there wasn't enough knowledge as to when life began. The first thing, he always said, is to do no harm. And he was always like that."

It's that common sense approach to life and politics that kept Joe Coleman such a powerful man in the Legislature. He said in the 1991 interview with

Ser

Former Sen. Joe Coleman. He is survived by his wife, Kevin Gerard and Kevin Coleman. He won election to the seat in 1956, losing an Iowa record.

- Coleman was instrumental in the Creek project and secured appropriation for it in 1956.
- Coleman was present and served as assistant.
- Coleman was appointed and served on the board.
- He was a charter member of the American Legion.
- Coleman started the Century Farm at Clare, and he died there.
- He spent his life in the county's Outstanding Citizen award.
- Coleman served in the military and the American Legion.

The Messenger that "It probably has the cleanest air of any state in the country. The fraud, vote buying, canery" elsewhere stain the state.

Continued from Page 1A

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Sen. Joe Coleman

Former Sen. Joe Coleman, D-Clare, died Friday. He was 79. He is survived by his wife, Polly; three sons, C. Joseph Jr., Kevin Gerard and Kerry; and eight grandchildren.

■ He won election to the Webster-Hamilton County Senate seat in 1956, losing in 1990, making his 34-year stint in office an Iowa record.

■ Coleman was instrumental in the development of Brushy Creek project and sponsored the resolution getting a \$1 million appropriation for it in 1967.

■ Coleman was president pro tem of the Senate in 1978-80 and served as assistant minority and majority leader.

■ Coleman was appointed to the Iowa Development Commission and served on the Appropriations Committee for 30 years. He was a charter member of the 520 Highway Association.

■ Coleman started farming with his father on the family's Century Farm at Clare, and he lived on the farm until shortly before his death. He spent the past three weeks at Bickford Cottages.

■ Coleman raised seed corn for 30 years and was Webster County's Outstanding Young Farmer in 1957.

■ Coleman served as president of the Iowa Soybean Association and the American Soybean Association.

The Messenger that "Iowa probably has the cleanest Legislature of any state in the country," with the fraud, vote buying and "chicanery" elsewhere staying out of the state.

"Part of it may be our rural environment," he said at the time.

"There was never a hint of scandal with Dad," Joe Jr. said. "He was controversial, but he was as honest as the day was long."

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