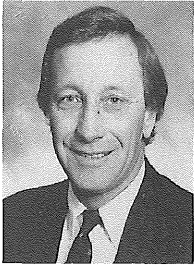


Five more House members announce retirement



Editor's note: After the 1996 Legislative Session adjourned sine die, several members announced their retirement.

Rep. Chuck Brown



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Citing a desire to spend more time with his family, Rep. Chuck Brown has announced his retirement from the House.

Brown, a DFLer from Appleton, Minn., has been a legislator for the past 12 years.

He's chaired the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Committee the past two legislative sessions. Before that he chaired the Local Government and Metropolitan Affairs Committee.

During his tenure, Brown was one of the sponsors of a bill that authorized living wills. He also sponsored a bill that raised the fine for not wearing a seat belt from \$10 to \$25, with the majority of money raised from the fine going to rural emergency medical training.

According to the *Morris Sun* newspaper, a return to politics isn't out of the question. For now, however, Brown, who was known for impassioned speeches on the House floor, plans to stick with auctioneering, his career outside of the Legislature.

Rep. Virgil Johnson



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Rep. Virgil Johnson (R-Caledonia) has announced his retirement after 14 years in the House.

Johnson said he is leaving to allow more time for his family, his farm, and the champion Dalmatians he and his wife raise.

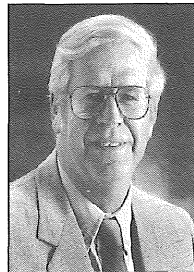
"You tend to put off a lot of things you really want to do," he said. "I think my wife and I will take a few trips, and I'll probably do a lot more hunting and fishing."

Johnson's work in the House focused on environmental and outdoors issues. He backed efforts to pass significant water management, agricultural, and hunting laws during his tenure.

Johnson also served as vice chair of the Select Committee on Technology, a panel charged with guiding the use of technology in the Legislature as it moves into the 21st century.

Before coming to the House, where he is tied for fourth place in seniority among House Republicans, Johnson served 18 years as a Houston County commissioner.

Rep. Tony Onnen



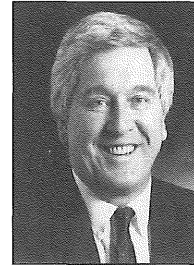
Rep. Tony Onnen

He announced that he would not seek re-election as the 1996 Legislative Session came to an end.

Onnen, a husband, father of five children, and the most senior Republican in the House, serves on the Health and Human Services Committee as well as its finance division, the Regulated Industries and Energy Committee, and the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee. He chaired the Health and Human Services Committee for a period during the mid-1980s.

Onnen, an accountant and insurance salesman, is known for many legislative efforts, including a 1994 law that provides a tax break for families in which one of the parents or a relative stays home to raise a child during the first year of life.

Rep. John Sarna



Rep. John Sarna

his family.

Rep. John Sarna, a 24-year legislative veteran, has decided not to seek re-election to the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Sarna, a DFLer, said the decision was not easy, but he would like to spend more time with

"I have enjoyed my years . . . but it is time to let someone else have a chance," Sarna said. "I have been proud to represent Northeast Minneapolis."

Sarna was instrumental in saving and restoring the 113-year old Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis, which now has a bike and pedestrian trail.

Only two House members — Reps. Jim Rice (DFL-Mpls) and Willard Munger (DFL-Duluth) have served in the House longer than Sarna.

Sarna, representing District 59A, is the current chair of the Commerce, Tourism, and Consumer Affairs Committee.

Rep. Gary Worke



Rep. Gary Worke

I told the party I would serve two terms," he said. "I just feel the time is right in my life to let someone else have the opportunity to serve."

Minority Leader Steve Sviggum (R-Kenyon) said Worke "has proven to be a leader" on both health care and welfare reform issues.

Worke said he enjoyed his time serving the people of Waseca and Steele counties in District 28A.

"It has truly been an honor to be a member of the House of Representatives," he said.