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HEADLINE: Former Republican state Senator Ken Maddy dies

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SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Former Republican state Sen. Kenneth L. Maddy, who represented California's Central Valley as a legislator for 28 years, died Saturday after a yearlong bout with lung cancer. He was 65.

Maddy, who unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1978, died at Sutter General Hospital in Sacramento, said longtime friend and political consultant Sal Russo.

A moderate Republican, Maddy was a budget-savvy political leader known for his intelligence and even temper.

"Ken Maddy was one of my heroes. He was a man of grace, good humor and a man of extraordinarily good judgment," Gov. Gray Davis said.

"Ken Maddy had not only brains and guts, but heart," former Gov. Pete Wilson said. "It wasn't just his dark good looks, the ready smile and laugh, but that great heart that made him so personally magnetic and one of the truly great legislators of the 20th Century."

Maddy, who did not smoke, was diagnosed with cancer last January.

In nearly three decades as an elected official, he served in both the state Senate and Assembly, focusing on issues important to California's Central Valley: farm labor, water and land use, and other agricultural issues.

"Ken Maddy was a great legislator, a great human being and a great friend," said Senate President Pro Tem John Burton. "One of the worst things to happen politically to the people of California was Ken Maddy not being elected to the office of Governor. He would have been one of the best we've ever seen."

Burton said the Senate would pay tribute to Maddy when it convenes on Tuesday, and that discussions will begin for an appropriate memorial to Maddy on the grounds of the state Capitol.

A native of Santa Monica, Maddy graduated from the California State University at Fresno. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, he went to law school at the University of California at Los Angeles.

Maddy served in the Assembly for eight years before his run for governor - a campaign that was marked by his admission that he had tried marijuana as a youth.

A longtime fan of horse racing, Maddy became co-owner of Work the Crowd in 1991. The filly won 14 of 22 starts, retiring with \$644,550 in earnings.

Russo said that despite Maddy's failing health in the past year, he often visited Work the Crowd and her offspring at the Harris Ranch in Coalinga.

His love for horses crossed over into his political life: Maddy during his Senate tenure worked to reduce license fees for thoroughbred racing.

Maddy left the Senate in 1998 because of term limits. Last year, he joined Fleishman-Hillard, a public relations firm, as a partner and senior vice president.

John Segale, senior partner and general manager of the firm's Sacramento office said Maddy brought leadership and expertise to the company. "His courage, commitment, class and humor were greatly appreciated and will always be remembered," Segale said.

Last October, Maddy was honored by his alma mater when friends and family members dedicated the Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Policy at the Cal State Fresno.

He is survived by his mother, Anna Thomas of Citrus Heights; a sister; three children; six stepchildren; five grandchildren and 13 stepgrandchildren. At the family's request, no public memorial service will be held, but a celebration of Maddy's life will be held in Sacramento in the near future.