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HEADLINE: Maddy: Man to get stuff done in Senate; MADDY'S RACE OVER Cancer claims state GOP moderate, horse racing backer

BYLINE: ERIC BRAZIL

SOURCE: OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

BODY:

Former state Sen. Kenneth L. Maddy, who won a reputation for moderation, common sense and effectiveness during his 28 years in the Legislature, died of lung cancer Saturday at Sutter Memorial Hospital in Sacramento. He was 65.

Gov. Davis, a Democrat, called the Central Valley Republican "one of my heroes. He was a man of grace, good humor and extraordinarily good judgment."

"Kenny was a straight-shooting, honorable guy," said Senate President pro tem John Burton, D-San Francisco. "He was the go-to guy to get stuff done."

Sen. Maddy was elected to the Assembly from Fresno in 1970, and to the state Senate in 1979. Term limits ended his political career in 1998.

Through four separate California administrations, Sen. Maddy was the glue that held together often fractious state budget negotiations.

"He was always the person who seemed to play an instrumental role in working things out between the governor and the Legislature," said Sal Russo, Sen. Maddy's old friend, former campaign manager and fellow partner in the international public relations firm of Fleishman-Hillard.

Sen. Maddy, a trim, movie-star-handsome man who was compared with John F. Kennedy when his political star was on the rise, ran unsuccessfully for the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 1978. He finished third - behind Attorney General Evelle Younger and ex-Los Angeles Police Chief Ed Davis, but ahead of governor-to-be Pete Wilson.

"He probably would have been a great governor," Burton said. "He was a great legislator and a great human being. . . . Except for the hard right, Kenny could just go in and reason and deliver even conservative Republicans" when a practical compromise was needed, he said.

Helped make government work

Sen. Maddy "was a great believer in the art of the possible," Russo said. "He was interested in making government work."

As the candidate of agriculture from the Central Valley, Sen. Maddy's political base was too small to prevail in the 1978 race, said Russo, who managed his campaign. But "he put (the defeat) behind him, and he went from being an unknown assemblyman in Fresno to a very prominent political figure. He never lost that lofty position," Russo said.

Sen. Maddy's legislative interests were broad, ranging from ethics to health care reform to water and crime. But his lifelong passion was for horse racing, and he was the racing industry's main advocate in the Legislature.

Raised around racetracks, Sen. Maddy was a "hot walker" in his youth and became an owner of thoroughbreds later in life. He authored 1998 legislation reducing license fees, which the industry insisted was needed to keep California competitive with other racing states. He also carried the bill that authorized satellite wagering in California.

The California Center for Equine Health and Performance and the Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at UC-Davis are among Sen. Maddy's other legislative legacies.

Owned champion racehorse

Sen. Maddy also co-owned a thoroughbred filly, Work the Crowd. A champion as a 2- and 3-year-old, as an older horse, she won \$644,550, including 12 stakes races, before being retired.

Former Gov. Wilson couched his appreciation of Maddy in racetracker terms: "Ken Maddy was a thoroughbred and a champion. He always ran furlongs ahead of the competition until the muddy track of cancer slowed him down. Ken not only had rains and guts but heart. . . . That great heart made him personally magnetic and one of the truly great legislators of the 20th century."

Sen. Maddy was born in Santa Monica, attended high school in Inglewood and was graduated from Cal State Fresno in 1957 and UCLA Law School in 1963. He served in the Air Force between college and law school. The Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Policy was dedicated last October at CSU-Fresno.

Sen. Maddy is survived by his mother Anna Thomas and sister Marilyn Brazell, both of Citrus Heights; three children, son Donald P. Maddy and daughters Deanna Host of Sacramento and Marilyn Geis of Fresno; five grandchildren, six stepchildren and 13 step-grandchildren. He also is survived by his fiancée Marie Moretti. Two former wives, Beverly Chinello and Norma Foster, also survive him.

Sen. Maddy's family requests that any memorials be sent to the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemical Laboratory at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine; the

Kenneth L. Maddy Institute at CSU-Fresno; or the Sacramento Area Youth Golf organization in Sacramento.

There will be no public memorial service. Russo said that "a celebration of Ken's life" will be held in Sacramento soon.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Lung cancer killed former state Sen. Kenneth Maddy on Saturday., ASSOCIATED PRESS / 1991