HENRY M'KNIGHT, 59, MIDWEST LAWMAKER

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MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 31—Henry T. McKnight, a former Minnesota State Senator who was a leader in conservation and the development of the model communities of Jonathan and Cedar-Riverside, died yesterday of a brain tumor. He was 59 years old and lived in Wayzata.

Mr. McKnight was born here, graduated from St. Paul's School and in 1936 from Yale. He sold advertising for The New York Herald Tribune, and in World War II rose to the rank of lieutenant commander in the Navy.

Afterward he became an assistant to the publisher of Look magazine. He was appointed to the National Agricultural Advisory Commission in the Eisenhower Administration. In Minneapolis, he headed many civic groups.

Surviving are his widow, the former Mrs. Grace Carter Lindley; two sons, H. Turney Jr. and Sumner T. 2d; a daughter, Christina A.; a sister, Mrs. William H. Moore, and a grandchild.