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James Humlicek remembered for coordinating campaigns

BY JANE PALMER

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Former Nebraskan James L. Humlicek worked on the presidential campaign staffs of George McGovern, Walter Mondale, John Glenn, Richard Gephardt, Bill Clinton and John Kerry.

The Democratic political worker coordinated Jimmy Carter's 1976 presidential campaign in Nebraska. In 1982, Humlicek was a manager on Sen. Edward Zorinsky's re-election campaign and on Bob Kerrey's bid to become the Democratic nominee for governor. In Washington, D.C., Humlicek served on the Democratic Senate Campaign Committee and on the House Campaign Committee.

In 1993, President Clinton appointed Humlicek executive director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Utah, a

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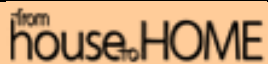
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post Humlicek held until 2001.

Since the 1990s, Humlicek had been living in the Salt Lake City area, where he served two terms as a Democratic national committeeman.

The 60-year-old died July 1 of a heart ailment at his home in Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

"Jim was a man who never trumpeted his competence, who stayed calm when confusion was all about and who never forgot his Prague, Neb., roots," Kerrey said Thursday from New York City. The former governor and U.S. senator is now the president of New School University.

"(Humlicek) provided the structure, discipline and experience I needed. We became and remained friends. He made a big difference in a lot of lives, especially mine," Kerrey said.

Humlicek was born in Roswell, N.M., and moved to Prague at the age of 5. He graduated from Mount Michael Benedictine High School in Elkhorn, Neb., and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

He is survived by his wife, Wendy Lewis, and 8-year-old twin sons Patrick and Quinn, all of Cottonwood Heights. He is also survived by his mother, Helen Humlicek, Prague; brothers Robert Humlicek, Prague, Jerald Humlicek, Shelby, Neb., and John Humlicek, Columbia, Mo.; and sisters Patricia Herstein, Garland, Neb., Linda Penney, Lake Zurich, Ill., Kay Duncan, Lincoln, and Theresa Humlicek, Lincoln.

Funeral services in Prague are at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 10:30 a.m. Monday. Burial is also in Prague. Memorials may be made to the Patrick and Quinn Humlicek Educational Fund at Key Bank, 410 East 400 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84111.

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