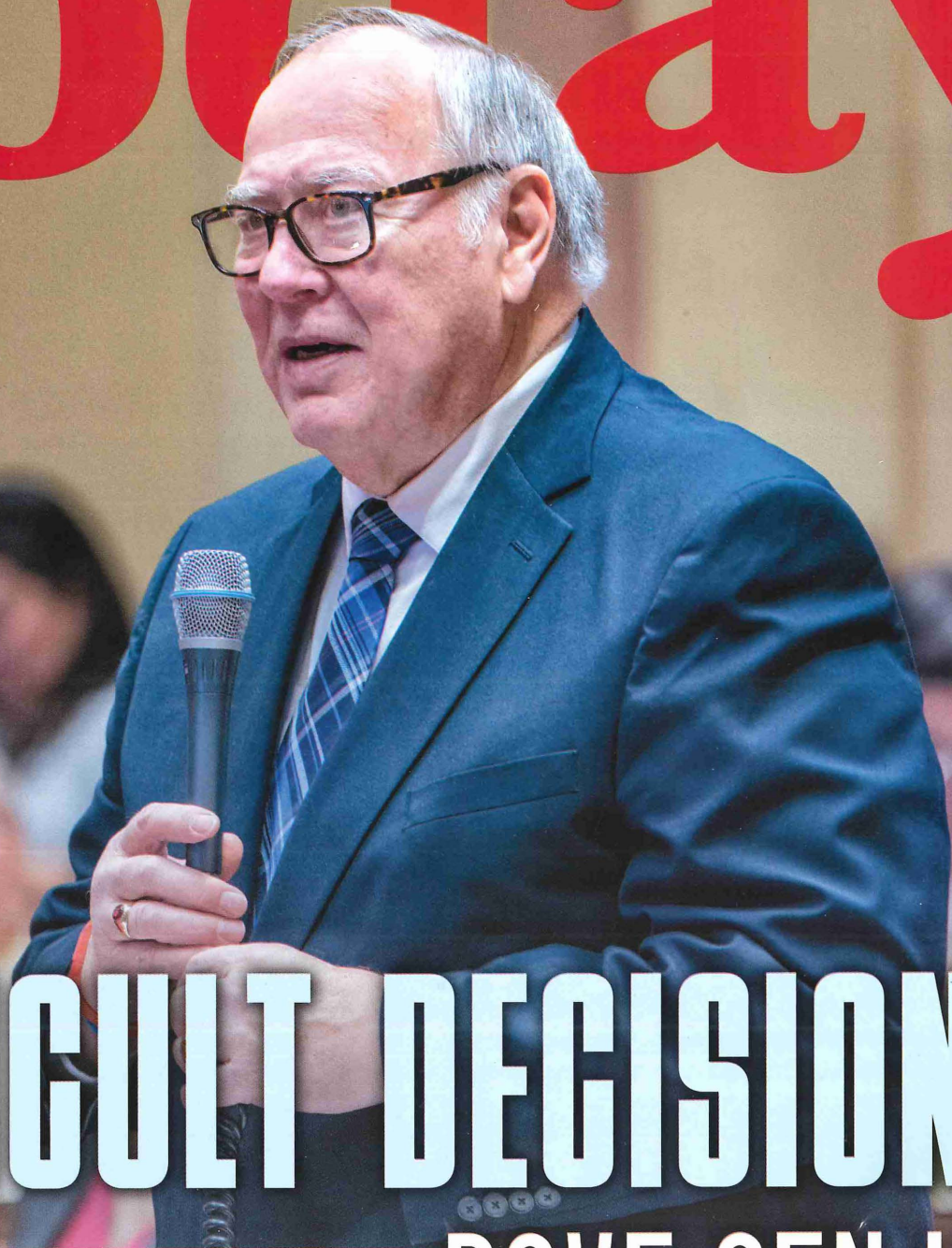


generations of

January 2020

# today™



## DIFFICULT DECISIONS

### DAVE SENJEM BEGINS SEVENTEENTH YEAR IN MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

PRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
LaCrosse, WI  
Permit No. 25

TODAY™  
491 Highway 19 Blvd  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
\* CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED \*

# SENIOR STATESMAN

DAVE SENJEM LOOKS FORWARD TO THE  
2020 MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE TERM



**BY LEON HANSON**

In the southeastern Minnesota political arena, Dave Senjem is one of the longest-serving members of the state senate. He served on the Rochester Park Board for a few years before running for city council, securing a seat in 1992. In 2002, he ran for state senator and won that position, as well.

Dave is currently preparing for the 2020 legislative session with the enthusiasm and diligence as though it is his first. His family has a background in politics. "It is something that has always been a part of my life," Dave said. "My great-great-grandfather, John Hanson, was a state representative in the late 1800s, and my father, Howard, served as mayor of Hayfield, Minnesota. I guess it could be genetics."

During his time with the Rochester Jaycees, Dave focused on community involvement. "One line of the organization's creed states, 'Service to humanity is the best work of life.' I believe those words have had a significant impact on how I approach my role in office today and how I conduct myself both personally and professionally."

Prior to his election, the DFL held control of the state senate for thirty-eight years. "We broke that cycle. Control has changed back and forth as far as the political make-up. I served as both minority and majority leader. Both sides want to make Minnesota a better place."

In recent years, Senjem has chaired the Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Committee. "That committee has an opportunity to look at numerous areas of concern from the standpoint of public infrastructure needs."

Mental health is a personal issue for Dave. "Both my mother and father suffered from mental illness. I came out





Senator Senjem received the Twin Cities Public Television Good Neighbor Award.



The senator speaks to a group students visiting from his district.


about that publicly in 2017. Since then, I have sponsored bills for establishing a mental health hotline and regional crisis centers for supportive housing. I will continue to be a strong advocate to move those issues forward.”

Life experiences play a large role in how he represents his constituency. “We can do so much better in helping those with mental health issues. I’ve seen tragedy firsthand. Specifically, in farming and other work places, there is an


increase in depression and suicide. The pressures of life are ramping up for a lot of people,” Dave stated.

Supportive housing is a relatively new issue facing the legislature. “There is an undeniable homeless problem in our state. Years ago, eliminating state-run homes and institutions seemed to be the right thing to do, but perhaps that has led to many of the issues we face today. This concept will provide people a housing unit with a small

**Southern Minnesota’s Fuel Connection**




LP Gas • Diesel • Gasoline



“The Quality People of Southeastern Minnesota”

- Professional Certified Technicians For Safety, Service, Savings, Honesty
- Commercial - Residential
- Industrial • Recreational
- Agricultural



**THRONDSO**  
OIL & L.P. GAS CO.  
BYRON, MN • ROCHESTER, MN

**THRONDSO**  
OIL & L.P. GAS COMPANY

507-289-2519 • www.throndsonoil.com • 2525 Schuster Lane NW • Rochester



Mitch Anderson 507-252-1058 Mike Salscheider 507-280-8232

**SPECIALIZING IN Medicare Coverages**

- SUPPLEMENTS
- ADVANTAGE PLANS
- Pt D DRUG PLANS

**Prime Time Health Advisors, Inc.**  
YOUR PRIME SOURCE FOR PLANS THAT WORK WITH MEDICARE

**SERVING SE MINNESOTA RESIDENTS**  
www.PTHealth.com

2048 SUPERIOR DRIVE NW • STE #100  
ROCHESTER, MN 55901



kitchen to help care for themselves. We'd make sure someone is available to assist with reminders to take medications, for instance. Currently there are two such homes in the state being used successfully. I will present legislation this session for funding to build several more units."

Energy transition is another of Dave's passions. The issue has become a major focus and topic of conversation in every corner of the state. "We have had a policy exchange for years between Minnesota and Germany. This has given us an opportunity to learn from each other on how to move into and through our long-term energy transition. The politics and economics of energy are quite common the world over," Dave said.

More vehicles using electric power does present some concerns. "There have been and will continue to be great advances in electric technology. As electric cars become more popular and gasoline use diminishes, there will be



Senator Senjem stands with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz at a bill-signing ceremony.

a reduction in the taxes collected that support maintenance of our roads and bridges. We will have to figure out a way of utilizing nominal fees to fund

the infrastructures issues we face in our state. There is no question, this is going to create a significant dialogue."

Other energy alternatives sources are



## GET EXCITED FOR THE *New Year* WITH BIG SAVINGS RATES!

ASK ABOUT  
OUR 17  
MONTH CD  
SPECIAL!



### MONEY MARKET SAVINGS

<b>1.51% APY*</b>	<b>1.41% APY*</b>	<b>1.31% APY*</b>	<b>1.26% APY*</b>	<b>1.21% APY*</b>
<b>\$500,000 and over</b>	<b>\$250,000 to \$499,999</b>	<b>\$100,000 to \$249,999</b>	<b>\$40,000 to \$99,999</b>	<b>Under \$40,000</b>

## NO TEASERS. NO GIMMICKS.

**Get everyday great savings rates at our community bank. Open a Money Market Savings Account today!**

- Deposit and withdraw at any time
- Limited check-writing ability
- Earn CD-like rates
- Low minimum to get started

Take action today - visit us in Rochester or Plainview!

YOUR FULL SERVICE BANKING TEAM






**Dave Hollister**  
507-534-3131  
DaveH@Foresight.Bank

**Wafa Elkhalfia**  
507-534-4019  
WafaE@Foresight.Bank

**Jay Birkholz**  
507-534-4536  
JayB@Foresight.Bank

**Amy Novotne**  
507-534-4508  
AmyN@Foresight.Bank  
NMLS 729170

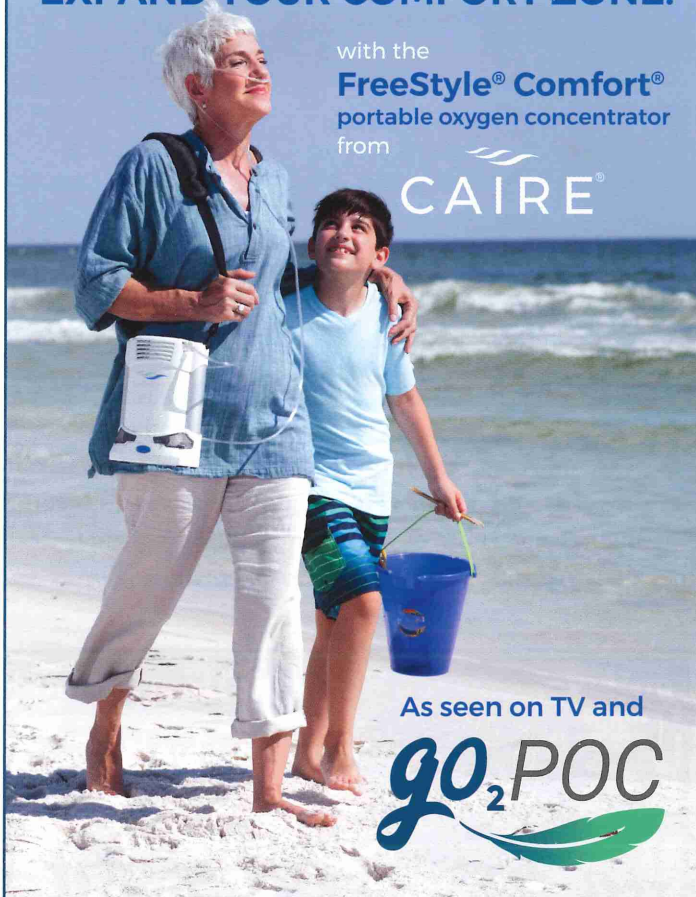
\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective as of 11/14/2019 and subject to change. \$5000 minimum average daily balance. If below, fees may reduce earnings. Government regulations limit the number of certain withdrawals to 6 per month. Rates are subject to change.

# Oxygen User?

EXPAND YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

with the  
**FreeStyle® Comfort®**  
portable oxygen concentrator  
from

CAIRE®



As seen on TV and

**go<sub>2</sub>POC**

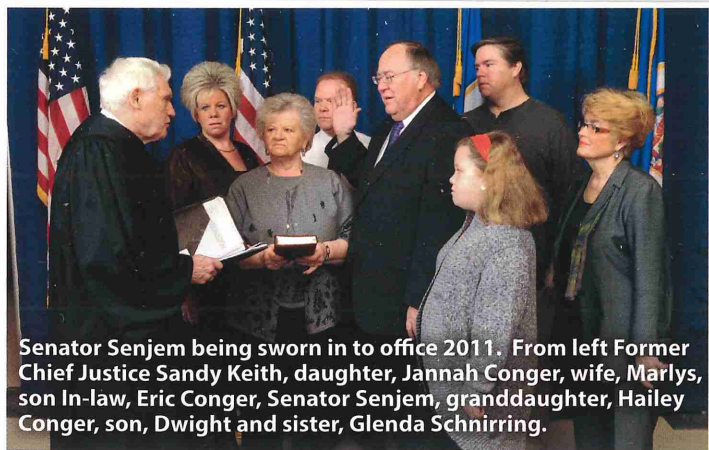


- Ergonomic, curved silhouette
- Weighs just 5 lbs.
- Covers growing prescription needs
- Peace of mind clinical features
- Meets FAA guidelines
- Eliminates need for tanks

WE OFFER IN-HOME SET-UP, EXTENDED WARRANTY  
OPTIONS, AND FREE LOANERS WHEN YOUR UNIT NEEDS  
REPAIR. FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE.

**BUY IT TODAY! [go2POC.com](http://go2POC.com)  
1-833-POC-4YOU**

A PRESCRIPTION IS REQUIRED FROM YOUR DOCTOR. PLEASE CONSULT THE  
APPLICABLE PRODUCT INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE FOR PRODUCT INDICATIONS,  
CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS, AND DETAILED SAFETY  
INFORMATION.



Senator Senjem being sworn in to office 2011. From left Former Chief Justice Sandy Keith, daughter, Jannah Conger, wife, Marlys, son In-law, Eric Conger, Senator Senjem, granddaughter, Hailey Conger, son, Dwight and sister, Glenda Schirring.


showing promise. “Hydrogen-driven cars have become popular in California. That will be a huge topic of conversation in the near future. There is so much on our plates yet to come. Innovations in technology will be in the forefront relatively soon.”

Technology affects much more than just transportation. “Think about the popularity of solar shingles. That is becoming more practical. In regard to large businesses and industries, we are hearing the term ‘Green Brand’ more often. Believe me, change is on the way.” Senjem has a bill, “Clean Energy First,” that will be going to the floor for a vote this upcoming session.

Senior issues have had a large influence on how Dave represents his district. In the upcoming session, several items will be the topic of conversation. One of the more heated issues is the controversy surrounding problems in the Department of Human Services. Millions of dollars appear to have been squandered through very poor decision making within the department. “DHS, right now, is a broken-down agency and definitely a priority for all of us. We have been and will continue to dig for answers. People within DHS will be held accountable for this mess and there definitely will be changes.”

Other topics include the capital investment bill, as well as the \$1.3 billion budget surplus. “We’ll have to figure out what to do with that money.” A strong capital infrastructure bill will be at the top of his legislative agenda. “Keep an eye out for that; the issue is an important one and will be the headline topic of the 2020 session,” Dave said.

Senjem said guns and violence will once again be a challenging topic. “This is not just an issue in Minnesota, but across the country. We need to have a more open-minded conversation about what is taking place and the cause. To be honest, this comes back once again to mental illness. In my heart, I really don’t believe this to be a gun issue. Personally, I think the focus should be not so much on the device, but rather what is going on in the minds of people who are committing these travesties.”

As his seventeenth session approaches, Senjem believes the most critical part of the job is to represent his constituents. This highly successful statesman can be counted on to fulfill his mission. 

Leon Hanson:  
[leonphm@live.com](mailto:leonphm@live.com)