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Robert Durkin obituary

MADISON - Robert E. Durkin died on Feb. 27, 2014, in Madison, at age 90. Born and raised in Milwaukee, he worked as a crane operator at A. O. Smith and was elected both president and later secretary-treasurer of its largest union, Local 19806. He then served as vice president of the Milwaukee Labor Council. In Madison, he headed the Wisconsin Division of Health under Governors Lucey, Schreiber, and Dreyfus.

He was predeceased by his wife of 54 years, Gladys (nee Hough); by his second wife, Shirley Grindrod; by his brother, Thomas A. Durkin; and by his sister, Marjorie A. Shelburn. He is survived by a son, Thomas W. Durkin of White Plains, N.Y.; by a daughter, Martha L. Durkin of Winnipeg, Canada; and by a large extended family that he acquired through his second marriage.