

Ed Thompson, the younger brother of former Governor Tommy Thompson and a gubernatorial candidate himself, died Saturday at his home in Tomah after fighting pancreatic cancer. Thompson was 66. Thompson was mayor of Tomah from 2000 to 2002 and 2008 to 2010. He ran for governor as a Libertarian in 2002, touting himself as Wisconsin's version of then-Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura. He lost to Democrat Jim Doyle in a three-way race that included then-Governor Scott McCallum, a Republican. Thompson most recently ran as a Republican for the 31st District state Senate seat. He was in the middle of that campaign when he announced in September 2010 that he had cancer. He lost to incumbent Democrat Kathleen Vinehout less than two months later. Thompson was diagnosed with cancer after going in for an unrelated surgery. Told that he had only about six months to live, he decided to forge ahead with the campaign.

Thompson worked at various times as a professional poker player, a prison cook and on a railroad. He fought in boxing matches and broke his leg skydiving. He owned a supper club in Tomah called Mr. Ed's Tee Pee

Funeral services are at 10 a.m Monday at the St. Mary's Parish in Tomah with a memorial at the supper club in Tomah. He had requested that instead of flowers, anybody wishing to memorialize him could do so by making a contribution to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner he founded.