By the 1960s and 70s, politicians from both major parties sought Guthmann's blessing as they mulled running for office, and he played a critical role in passing the city charter that created St. Paul's "strong mayor" system.

Guthmann also served as a board member with the Rotary Club of St. Paul, the St. Paul Charter Commission, the board of directors of Regions Hospital and the Elders Learning Institute/University of Minnesota.

Inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame in 2005, he was a co-founder of the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation, the Friends of the St. Paul College Foundation and the Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth. He became a Boy Scouts scoutmaster at 18 and later council president, eventually playing a critical role in the development of the North Star Museum of Boy and Girl Scouting. He was active in Unity Church-Unitarian of St. Paul for over 65 years and twice served as its board chair. In 1993, Guthmann was part of the St. Paul United Way board that refused to pay $100,000 in annual dues to the United Way of America while the national organization was under federal investigation for spending excesses.

Guthmann retired last year at the age of 93 from Wilkerson Guthmann CPAs, where he worked for 70 years. According to his obituary, which was published in Sunday's Pioneer Press, his certified public accountant certificate is No. 462. Certificates today number well past 28,000.

He was the second-oldest member of Innisjoka, a fraternal organization composed of former members of the St. Paul Jaycees and the Jaycee Wives. Guthmann and his wife, Betsy, submitted the winning entry for the group's name, which means "white rock," during the group's inaugural party on the St. Croix River in 1968.

Composed of consummate volunteers, Innisjoka completed "absolutely no service projects," said Guthmann, interviewed in a Pioneer Press article about the society in June 2016. "Are you kidding? The general rule is that there's no rules. It's just for fun."

Howard Guthmann and his wife, Betsy, are pictured in September 2015, when their high school, St. Paul Central, celebrated its 150th anniversary. Howard Guthmann died Dec. 6 at age 95.

Guthmann, who moved from Mendota Heights to an assisted-living facility in June, suffered macular degeneration, so his daughter called him at 2 p.m. daily with stock updates. He was involved in three different stock clubs, said his family, and his mind was lucid until the end.

In fact, one of his final organizational acts was to recruit students to teach classes at the assisted-living facility, and then have seniors teach each other.

Guthmann is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betsy; children Susan Henry, John Guthmann, Debra Termus and Patricia Haresch; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. John Guthmann is the chief judge of the Ramsey County District Court.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Unity Church, 733 Portland Ave.