

OBITUARIES

Judge E.W. Hertz

Judge E.W. Hertz, age 91, of Menno, SD passed away on Sunday, December 15, 2013 at his home.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 20, 2013 at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with Rev. Theresa Jacobson officiating. Burial will be in the Menno Cemetery, Menno, with Military Graveside Rites by the Rames-Bender American Legion Post #152, Menno, SD and the SDARNG Honor Guard, Sioux Falls, SD.

Visitations will begin at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 19, 2013 at Grace Lutheran Church, Menno, with a prayer service and memory sharing at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, is assisting with service details.

Ernie spent nearly his entire life in his beloved hometown, Menno. He was born in Menno on May 10, 1922, to Paul and Ida (Schmidt) Hertz, the seventh of ten children. The family had little, and he and his siblings quickly learned to not only help provide for the family, but also to make their own fun. Countless hours of shooting hoops in his basement using a coffee can and a tennis ball paid off, as he became a star basketball player in high school. He graduated from Menno High School in 1940.

He attended Yankton College on a basketball scholarship, supporting himself with various jobs, including washing milk bottles for a local dairy. When Ernie was a sophomore, the undefeated Yankton College Grey-



Hertz

hounds participated in the National Intercollegiate basketball tournament in Kansas City. The Menno newspaper, the Hutchinson Herald, called Ernie "a consistent score and rebound man" and commented on his role as a center on the undefeated team: "Hertz ... has seen action that would have merited him a place among the first five of most college teams."

In 1941, when the attack on Pearl Harbor came, Ernie enlisted in the Coast Guard, partly because he hoped (correctly) it might give him an occasional opportunity to engage in his beloved hobby, fishing. He trained in the signaling school at Manhattan Beach, New York, where Jack Dempsey, the former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, ran the physical fitness program. After stints in Florida and Cuba, he was stationed in England. He and his crewmates on an 83' wooden cutter employed depth-finding equipment with sounding gear to find German mines in the waters around Great Britain.

On June 6, 1944, he witnessed thousands of ships and planes amassing in the air space and waters of the Channel. This was the start of D-Day. Ernie said, "It made me feel pretty good. We had strength on our side and there was no question we were going to win."

Until recently, he rarely spoke of his role in the D-Day operation. His cutter was assigned to pick up survivors. On one occasion, they could only save about

35 out of 200 crewmembers. Sadly, the captain was pinned down by a pole and went down with his ship.

He was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard on November 14, 1945, and returned to South Dakota to resume his education. Always a man of strong faith and unwavering love of Christ, he began to make plans to attend a Lutheran seminary in Ohio. Then a friend's mother asked him to postpone that for a time to help her son. This temporary detour turned permanent, as he enrolled in law school at the University of South Dakota, courtesy of the G.I. Bill. He graduated in 1948.

Ernie's love of dancing meant he sometimes attended area dances, including a fateful one in Scotland, S.D., which led him to the love of his life, Eleanor Mehlhaf, also from Menno and six years his junior. They were married in Menno on December 28, 1947.

Ernie and Eleanor raised four children in Menno while he practiced law in Menno and Olivet, S.D., from 1948 to December 31, 1969. He served 15 years as the Hutchinson County State's Attorney, as well as Menno City Attorney, and attorney for the Menno School Board.

Governor Frank Farrar appointed Ernie as circuit judge of the First Judicial Circuit on January 1, 1970.

Judge Hertz became the circuit's presiding judge on July 1, 1975, and served in that capacity until his mandatory retirement in December 1992. For many years thereafter, he practiced law part time, mostly acting as a mediator or arbitrator. He climbed the 24 stairs to his office several times a week until he was nearly 90.

Judge Hertz served as an acting justice for the South Dakota Supreme Court on two occasions: in 1985-1986 and in 1990, and sat with the court many additional times for various cases. He was happiest in his role as a trial judge in the trenches, however, where he garnered respect from all he met. He presided over a number of notorious cases during his tenure.

Judge Hertz served his profession in various capacities, including president of the South Dakota Judges' Association, the chair of the Presiding Judges of the State of South Dakota, and a member of the Judicial Qualifications Commission. He received the Dean Marshall M. McKusick Award from the USD School of Law in 1990. In 2000, he was the first honoree of the Fred J. Nichol Award for Outstanding Jurist from the South Dakota Trial Lawyers Association.

Ernie was a loving and caring father who dearly loved his bride of nearly 66 years, as Eleanor ran the home while supporting him in his professional life. No better role model could be found, as he strived to treat everyone fairly, both in work and family. He was determined to provide for his family what he did not have while growing up.

Never a quitter, he was nonetheless a realist. When it was time to change directions, he did what he needed to do without hesitation. He was scrappy and competitive in a positive way - as a lawyer and judge, he wanted to understand each case better than anyone else, and he worked tirelessly to attain that goal.

Ernie and Eleanor raised four children: Barry (Susan) Hertz of Calgary, Alberta,

Canada; Barbara Naber of Sioux Falls; Michael of Menno; and Mary (Steve Scarbrough) of Brookings, S.D.; and eight dearly-loved grandchildren: Alisa, Joseph, Geoffrey, and Sarah Hertz; Andra Begay; and Justine, Molly, and Jenna Scarbrough. He was blessed with six great-grandchildren: Ella, Sophie, Jack, William, Mariama, and Awa.

Ernie was a principled man who always acted in line with his faith in God, instilled in him by his venerated mother, Ida. He served his church in various capacities, including deacon, Sunday School superintendent for many years, and lay preacher when the need arose.

He appeared reserved and serious, yet he possessed an excellent sense of humor, which he frequently signaled with his expressive "Eddie Cantor" eyes. He was a one-time pool shark/snooker champion, a teammate on the talented Hertz baseball teams in Menno, and an avid fisherman. He loved working in his yard and feeding the birds. This eventually led him to embrace the squirrels that visited as well; he made friends with them and taught some to eat peanuts from his hand. He dearly loved the smell of a new car and was known to buy new ones on a regular basis. He taught all of his grandchildren and many Menno children the art of a firm handshake. He read avidly about World War II and was renowned for his large vocabulary. Tender-hearted, he preached patience but realized he sometimes lacked it himself.

Greeting him with open arms in heaven are his par-

ents, Paul and Ida, and his siblings: Gerhardt (Dorothy); Esther (Marvin); Herbert ("Diny") (Bernice); Clara (Marvin); Walter (Enida); Filmore ("Jack"); Elmer ("Lefty"); Carl; and Leo. He will also be reunited with other loved family members, including Theodore and Emelia Mehlhaf; Milt, Jean, and Mark Mehlhaf; Jack Mehlhaf; Arnie Dormaier, Fred Huber, and Charlie and David Hertz.

His family will forever mourn his passing, but cherishes the example he set, the memories that remain, and the knowledge that we will one day see him again. He will be missed; as noted by one of his beloved grandchildren: "More than just a judge, and more than just my grandpa. My heart hurts that the world has lost him: a brother to nine, a husband, a dad to four, a grandpa, and a great-grandpa. A man who lived and learned through history - through the Depression, dust bowl, and was a part of D-Day at Omaha Beach in Normandy. He was a devoted Christian, deeply rooted with morals, an occasional preacher, and my most wonderful Republican with only the best intentions for people. A basketball player, fisher, baseball fan, nap lover, enjoyer of chislic, and anything sweet. He has done so much for my family and the United States, and I am going to miss him too much for words."

Yankton Press & Dakotan
December 18, 2013

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Irene Cuka

At sunrise on December 16, 2013, Irene G. Cuka, 80, of Rapid City, left this earth to join her heavenly family.

She was born to the family of Edward and Rose (Swatek) Kostel on their family farm south of Wagner, SD, on August 8, 1933. She graduated from 8th grade at St. Wenceslaus Catholic School in Tabor, SD and Wagner High School in 1951.

Irene married William H. Cuka on September 19, 1951, in the Assumption Catholic Church in Dante, SD. Together they farmed south of Wagner.

To this marriage were born Richard (Marcia) Cuka, of Rapid City, SD; Theresa (William) Snyder, of N. Charleston, SC; Carol (William) Wallace; Deborah Chancellor, of Woodlawn, TN; Lawrence (Sylvia) Cuka, of Rapid City and Nancy Woodson. Her grandchildren are Lori Luciano, Sarah Crook, Kevin Cuka Trisha Cuka, Cory Wallace, Matthew Wallace, Eric Andersen and Drew Andersen. Irene also has 13 great-grandchildren.

After having sold their family farm in 1969, Bill and Irene resided in Yankton, SD. Then in 1976 they fulfilled a life-long wish and moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Irene was a devoted member of Saint Thérèse Church and Saint Anthony's Circle.

She will be remembered for her baking and sewing talents. Only one thing gave her more

joy and that was sharing her goods with others.

Irene was preceded in death by her parents, her husband William in January of 2012, her daughters Carol and Nancy and her grandson Matthew.

Her family extends their deepest appreciation to Dr. Steven Stocks and Sylvia Cuka for 35 years of loving care, and to the Hospice House for making her final days with her family full of dignity and respect.

Visitation will be on Friday, Dec. 20, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., with a Christian wake service and rosary recitation at 7:00 p.m. at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral Home in Rapid City.

Christian Funeral Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 21, at the Church of Saint Thérèse, in Rapid City, with the Rev. William Zandri as the celebrant.

Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Rapid City.

The family requests memorial contributions to Rapid City Regional Hospital Auxiliary Hospice House, 224 Elk St., Rapid City, SD 57701.

Her online guestbook may be signed at www.osheim-schmidt.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
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Rochelle Raduechel

Rochelle Ann Raduechel, 64, of South Sioux City, Neb., and formerly of Hartington, Neb., died Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, at the Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa.

Graveside services of her cremated remains will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at St. Michael's Cemetery, Hartington, with the Rev. Jeffery Loseke officiating.

Louise Pody

Louise Pody, 82, Mitchell, SD, died Sunday, December 1, 2013 at her home.

Memorial Services will be Friday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bittner Funeral Chapel in Mitchell. Burial will be in Saint Peter's Catholic Cemetery in White Lake.

Visitation will be Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at the Bittner Funeral Chapel.

She was born November 17, 1931 at Mitchell to Nick and Marie (Gales) Martin. She grew up at White Lake, SD and graduated from White Lake High School in 1949. She attended Notre Dame Jr. College, Presentation College and Dakota Wesleyan University, where she graduated with a B.A. Degree. On January 23, 1960 she married Bruce Pody. Her 28 years of teaching in country schools and Mitchell Public Schools ended with her affliction of Multiple Sclerosis. She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, life time member of the National Education Association, the American Legion and VFW Auxiliary and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

She is survived by her son, Bruce A. Pody, Beverly Hills, CA; and a sister, Jeanne (Francis) Laffey, Yankton.

Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

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Martha Tschetter

Martha Tschetter, 93, of Freeman passed away Tuesday at the Oakview Terrace in Freeman.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. at the Bethany Menonite Church of Freeman.

Visitation will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday with the family present from 6-8 p.m. at the Walter Funeral Home in Freeman.

Survivors include 3 sons; Loren (Carol), Larry (Edith) both of Freeman and Ron (Connie) of Marion; 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Marlo Custer

Funeral services for Marlo M. Custer, 90, of Verdigre, Neb., will be 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, 2013, at the United Methodist Church, Verdigre. Pastor Trudy Hanke will officiate, with burial in the Riverside Cemetery at Verdigre.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Friday at the United Methodist Church, Verdigre.

Brockhaus Funeral Home, Verdigre, is in charge of arrangements.

Marlo died Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, at the Norfolk Veterans Home in Norfolk, Neb.

Lorraine Brown

Lorraine C. Brown, 89, of Vermillion died Monday, Dec. 16, 2013, at Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls.

Memorial services are at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 20, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Vermillion, with the Rev. John Fischer officiating. Burial of her cremated remains will be in the Bluff View Cemetery.

Visitations are at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at the church in Vermillion, a 7 p.m. rosary and Scripture service. Visitation will resume one hour prior to service at the church.

The Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton, is assisting with service details.

Doris Frank

Doris Frank, age 81, of Sioux Falls, S.D., and formerly of Yankton, S.D., died Monday, December 16, 2013 at her residence.

Memorial services are 2 p.m. on December 28, 2013 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with Reverend Greg Berglund officiating. Inurnment will be at the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton. The family will receive friends from 5-8 p.m. on December 27, 2013 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

To send an online sympathy message, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

IN REMEMBRANCE
Rochelle Ann Raduechel
Graveside Service
1:00 PM, Friday
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