

OBITUARIES

**Herbert Tollefson**

Herbert R. Tollefson, age 96 of Menno, SD passed away on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno, SD.

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 19 at the Salem Reformed Church, Menno, SD with Rev. Michael Hecht officiating. Burial will be approximately 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Restlawn Memory Gardens Cemetery, Huron, SD (five miles south of Huron).

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Military rites will be by the Rames-Bender American Legion Post #152, Menno.

The Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno, SD is assisting with the service details. Online condolences may be sent to Opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

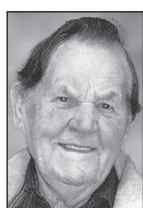
Pallbearers will be: Jacob

Tollefson, Andrew Tollefson, Ryan VanLaecken, Dale Gronhovd, Thomas Tollefson and Robert VanLaecken.

Herb was born to Alma (Pawloski) and Rufus Tollefson in Cuthbert, SD (near Woonsocket, SD) on April 12, 1919.

In the 1920s and dirty '30s he was a fun loving, hard working farm boy. He and his brothers and sisters attended a country school near Cuthbert.

In the early 1940s, Herb was drafted and went to fight in WWII. He was trained to be a Demolitions Engineer and shipped overseas soon after. He fought bravely for the USA and earned four major battle scars in Africa, Italy and Germany with the 5th Army. He experienced some amazing things and always considered himself lucky to come back in one piece. Many of his memories about the war have been recorded by his family and officially recorded from recent inter-



Tollefson

views by newscasters in Yankton and Vermillion, SD.

About the same time, on December 28, 1942, Herb mar-

ried Mary Antonia Peta in Muskogee, OK and they started their family together.

He came back from the war to his family as a Master Sergeant and joined the National Guard in Woonsocket.

He also joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion and had been an active member of both for over 70 years, in both Woonsocket, SD and Menno, SD. He was most proud of the 96 flags he gave out in Woonsocket, SD as Post 29 Legion Chaplain for many years. Herb loved being from Woonsocket. In the '40s and '50s, he

and Mary had four children: Rosemary, David, Lywellyn and John.

In the '50s, Herb and Mary had their start in farming. They grew corn, alfalfa and oats and raised cattle and pigs. They started growing watermelons and muskmelons then and Herb was a melon man ever since.

In the '60s, things started well, but in 1965, a car accident severely injured Mary, causing a stroke. Mary never fully recovered and passed away in 2007.

This set Herb back, but he cared for her and still worked the farm and raised his children. He was a very good father and grandfather and even beloved by his children's friends. He set a good example for everyone. He worked hard and loved to play the harmonica, making sure everyone had fun.

From the '50s through the '90s, his farm prospered and his children had children. Everyone and their families came to Herb's farm

to help and to enjoy him. In the early 2000s, Herb was into his 80's and his aorta heart valve was failing. With modern medicine, it was replaced with a pig valve. It saved his life and gave him a dozen more great years, but it is that replacement valve that finally failed him now, at age 96.

In 2008, Herb married his old friend through the watermelons and seed corn, Frieda Nusz of Menno, SD. He moved to Menno and they had seven great years together. Herb loved Frieda and they had fun together. She was there with him to the end. He really enjoyed his final years with her in Menno and even his final months at the Menno home, with the caring staff who treated him very well.

Herbert is survived by his wife, Frieda of Menno, SD; children: Rosemary (Ron) VanLaecken of Watertown, SD, Lywellyn (Cindy) Tollefson of Watertown, SD and John (Michelle)

Tollefson of Oshkosh, WI; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; his beloved sister, Melba Sorben of Huron, SD; sister-in-law, Nell (LaVerne) of Huron, SD and his brother-in-law, Allen Miiller (Pauline) of Mt. Vernon, SD.

Herbert was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary; son, David Tollefson; brothers, Lyle and LaVerne; sisters, Beulah Johnson and Pauline Miiller; and his parents.

Herb wouldn't expect you to, but if you really want to, send flowers from Country Girl Floral, (605) 760-0031. Memorials may be sent to Salem Reformed Church, PO Box 304, Menno SD, 57045.

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December 18, 2015

AISENBREY  
**PSAHL-KOSTEL**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.  
Online condolences at:  
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

**Leland 'Lee' Skalberg**

Leland "Lee" Skalberg, age 91, of Yankton, died Tuesday, December 15, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.



Skalberg

A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 21 at First United Methodist Church in Yankton, with Reverend Ron Johnson officiating. Burial will be

in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton with military honors provided by the Ernest-Bowyer VFW Post No. 791 and the Patriot Guard Riders.

A gathering of friends and family is from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with a prayer service at 3:30 p.m. followed by a masonic service by St. John's Lodge #1.

Leland "Lee" Skalberg was born May 30, 1924, Ulen, Minnesota, to David and Hildur (Larson) Skalberg. He grew up in Wausa, Nebraska and was raised by his mother after

his father passed away when he was eight years old. He attended school in Wausa and graduated from Wausa High School in 1942. He enlisted into the United States Navy and served three years in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. He married Phyllis Bengtson on June 20, 1946, in Wausa, Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in 1950. They moved to Orchard, Nebraska, where Lee taught agriculture to veterans for 11 years. He then began selling for Walnut Grove Feed in Orchard. He became Divisional Sales Manager for

Walnut Grove and was transferred to Yankton in 1961. In 1964, Lee began his 47-year career selling insurance for Equitable Life Assurance in Yankton.

Lee's faith was very important part of his life. He was a member of First United Methodist Church where he was very active in Bible Studies, Methodist Men and even served the surrounding community as a lay minister. He was also a member of the Yankton VFW, American Legion, St. John's Masonic Lodge #1, El Raid Shrine and Eastern Star. Lee was a kind, hardworking man who was a great businessman and

loved his family above all else. Lee was a very faithful and devoted husband who truly lived his vows, caring for Phyllis as her health declined.

Survivors include his wife of nearly 70 years, Phyllis of Yankton; two children: Dave (Brenda Young) Skalberg of Mitchell, South Dakota and Brenda (John) Janssen of Emery, South Dakota; three grandchildren: Christopher (Missy Bunger) Janssen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Emily (Kevin) Petoske of Sioux Falls; and Katie (Ross) Petrick of Garretson, South Dakota; and four great grandchildren: Reese, Grayson, Sam and Lucy. He was preceded in death

by his parents; son, Brent; two brothers: Don and Virgil Skalberg; and sister, Rachel Anderson.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

To post an online sympathy message, visit wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

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**WINTZ & RAY**  
FUNERAL HOME and  
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Online condolences at:  
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

**Wayne Kropuenske**

Memorial services for Wayne Kropuenske, 70, of Tyndall, South Dakota, will be held at 7:00 p.m. with visitation held one hour prior to service on Friday, December 18 at the Goglin Funeral Home in Tyndall with Rev. Dean Schroeder officiating.

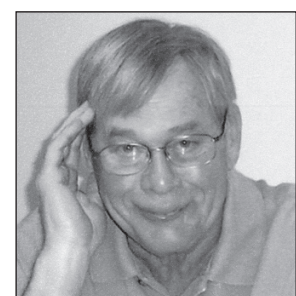
Funeral arrangements are under the care of Goglin Funeral Home of Tyndall. Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.

Wayne Gustave Kropuenske was born on Saturday,

April 21, 1945 to Earl and Thelma (Leslie) Kropuenske in Beresford, South Dakota. He graduated from Luverne High School in Minnesota in 1963. In that same year, Wayne enlisted in the National Guard. For a time, he sold Hansen Silos with his father and other agriculture equipment for Gehl/New Holland and New Idea. After gaining much experience in the field, Wayne opened Kropuenske Implement in Tyndall, South Dakota owning and operating it for several years. Following the closure of his shop, Wayne

worked for Powermotive in Colorado and Murphy Tractor in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. In 2010, he once again made his home in Tyndall.

Wayne loved his family, friends and his beloved 1996 Ford Explorer. His 300,000-plus mile vehicle spoke of his joy of getting out and about and was a very familiar sight in the town and countryside. Wayne also enjoyed telling stories and his routine breakfast burrito at Schmidt's followed by a cheeseburger and Pepsi lunch at the Corral. Wayne's family will always remember



Wayne Kropuenske

him as the best dad, grandfather and selfless friend that anyone could ask for. He was a daredevil who was never afraid to live his life to the fullest.

Wayne passed away on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Avera-Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton having attained the age of 70 years, seven months and 24 days.

He is survived by his daughters: Dawn E. (special friend Jerry Hansen) Kropuenske and Jessica W. (Dustin) Kropuenske Stanton; grandchildren: Addison, Alex and Avery Stanton; mother Thelma Leslie Kropuenske; brother Duane E. (Linda) Kropuenske; former wife Kathy Mount Kropuenske; and several nieces, nephews and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his father, sister-in-law Patsy Kropuenske and many aunts and uncles.

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Goglin  
**Funeral Home**  
Tyndall - Scotland - Tripp  
  
www.goglinfh.com

**James Tichy**

James J. Tichy, 88, of Meckling, SD passed away Thursday, December 17, 2015 at the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

James was born February 12, 1927 near Wagner, SD to Adolph and Amelia (Wagner) Tichy; he attended school in Plankinton, SD and then received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of South Dakota. He served in the Army during the Korean War, and had worked for the Facilities Management at the University of South Dakota retiring after more than 20 years.

James married Gertie Boerma on February 24, 1950. James enjoyed seeing the countryside as a ferris wheel operator for a traveling carnival, enjoyed riding motorcycles and loved gardening, canning and raising many different farm animals. He also taught electrical courses and planted many of the trees on the USD Campus.

He is survived by his wife Gertie of Wakonda, SD, two sons: Dennis of Denver, CO and Troy of Meckling, two daughters: Deborah (Duane) Dean of Scotland, SD and Dawn (Dennis) Woods of Aberdeen, SD, two brothers: Jerome Tichy of Arizona, and Charlie Tichy of Douglas, WY and also two sisters: Lucile Kostel of Wagner, SD and Joyce Wiglighter of Aberdeen. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 21 at the Bergen Lutheran Church rural Meckling with burial to follow in the Meckling Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday, December 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion.

Online condolences can be made at HansenFuneralHome.com.

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**Dolores Tramp**

Dolores Mae Tramp, 87, of Yankton died Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Arrangements are pending with the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

**Karen Toupal**

Karen Kay Toupal, 64, of Yankton died Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Funeral services are 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21 at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Ken Lulf officiating. Burial will be in the Yankton Cemetery. Visitation with the family

present is from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton. Visitation then continues one hour prior to the funeral service on Monday.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

www.yankton.net  
www.yankton.net  
www.yankton.net

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Arlene Goeden</b> 1:00 PM, Friday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	<b>Leland Skalberg</b> 10:30 AM, Monday First United Methodist Church, Yankton
<b>Janis Long</b> 3:30 PM, Saturday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton	<b>Karen Kay Toupal</b> 2:00 PM, Monday Wintz & Ray Funeral Home Yankton

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**We Are Closing Our Doors!**

**Everything is priced to sell! Many items 50% OFF!**

**Great selection of items for Christmas gifts.**

**Final Day Wednesday, December 23**

**Thank You**

We want to thank all of you in this caring community, for all your kindness, for all your emails, cards, gifts, food and beautiful flowers. The Daryl and Craig Johnson families for your kindness. Howler's, Jon and Carol and staff for the delicious dinner. For granddaughter, Stephanie, for all her help. Rita Eidem for her thoughtfulness. The Kober Funeral Home, Pastor Fowler, Christy Kimball (organist), and the police escort out of Vermillion to the cemetery.

Curtis was Rod's life. He will miss and love him always. We know Curtis is at peace with our heavenly father.

God Bless All of You  
**Rod and Betty Clark and Angie**

**Come See The... Live Nativity**  
Saturday, December 19th • 5:30 & 6:30 (20 minute performances)  
Interact with the animals and performers and enjoy refreshments following each performance!

**First United Methodist Church**  
207 W. 11th St., 605-665-2991

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