

# Ranneys

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reputation until he served as national president for the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG).

Because of Brooks' ACOG office, Vi traveled with him around the world for medical conventions and meetings. She was stunned at the number of professionals who already knew Brooks' work.

At a welcome dinner in Jamaica, a local physician came down to greet the Ranneys rather than wait for their arrival.

"(The Jamaican doctor) said, 'At last, I get to meet the great Dr. Ranney.'" Vi said, noting a similar greeting in Italy. "This happened all over the world."

Brooks said Yankton appealed to him as the place to start his medical career after returning from World War II military service in Europe.

"I was looking for the quality of medical care at the time I finished my residency," he said. "We established the first women's specialty clinic in South Dakota at Yankton."

Brooks said he didn't want to remain in Chicago, where he was finishing his medical training, or on the East Coast. He then received an offer from contacts to

join a multi-specialty clinic in Yankton.

The young doctor was intrigued by the community and a number of attributes: its location along the Missouri River, the presence of Yankton College, and the retail-medical area of 100,000 residents.

"I was offered \$500 a month to practice here (in Yankton)," he said. "I could have made more elsewhere, but I was thinking long-term."

Moving to Yankton was the right choice both personally and professionally, he said, and he has remained in the community his entire life.

During Sunday's program, Ted Powell served as master of ceremonies. The Ranneys received proclamations from the City of Yankton, the Yankton County Commission and Gov. Dennis Daugaard. The respective proclamations were delivered by City Commissioner Charlie Gross, County Commissioner Allen Sinclair and District 18 State Rep. Bernie Hunhoff.

The Ranneys' religious contributions were reflected by the invocation from their pastor, the Rev. Dr. Rick Jensen, and the UCC choir, which sang two numbers under the direction of Jennifer Powell.

Jensen referred to the Ranneys as "live wires" and "spiritual nuclear reactors" who energized others.

"You enlighten lives with your creativity, intelligence and enthusiasm for life," Jensen told the couple.

Dr. David Holzwarth spoke on behalf of the medical community. He described Brooks' military service, publications and the advancement of obstetrics and gynecology, including at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine in Vermillion.

Brooks' teaching inspired others, including an Oregon physician who wrote how he was using Brooks' techniques on patients around the world.

"You have left a legacy for the enhancement of health care for women," Holzwarth said.

Yankton resident Sally Welter offered a patient's perspective at Sunday's program. She spoke of Brooks' care, including a difficult pregnancy, as she delivered seven children in 10 years.

"There is smart, there is wisdom, and he (Ranney) has both," Welter said. "Yankton is so blessed to have one of these medical giants in South Dakota and the whole (world) outside South Dakota."

UCC member Ted Powell noted the Ranneys have remained active members of the church for decades. Brooks has been a choir member since 1948, and Vi has chaired the music committee and has served on the church council. Vi played a major role in the church's remodel-

ing project, Powell said.

Vi has become well known as an experienced tour guide, leading excursions to exotic locales around the world.

Larry Rupiper, the owner of Rupiper Travel in Yankton, opened with a musical rendition of "Fly Me To The Moon," describing Vi's work for his agency.

A high achiever, Vi graduated from Scotland High School at age 16 and was married at age 18, Rupiper said. She worked for 19 years at First Dakota National Bank, commuting from Scotland for 13 of those years.

After her first marriage ended, Vi moved to Yankton and continued her education. She attended Yankton College and received her bachelor's degree in business administration from Mount Marty College. She majored in marketing and minored in music.

In 1981, the Ranneys married and traveled together as Brooks served his ACOG national presidency, Rupiper said.

Another venture opened up when the Ranneys led a tour for a Yankton travel agency. Vi encouraged Rupiper to purchase the agency, and she led tours for him across the nation and abroad.

One of Vi's most memorable tours was leading World War II veterans on a return trip to Europe, Rupiper said.

"She cried with (the veterans) at Normandy Beach, as her heart

swelled with emotion," he said.

Vi also became an active March of Dimes volunteer, serving an area from Yankton to Pierre, Rupiper said. She raised not only funds but also awareness on the effect of alcohol and tobacco on teen pregnancies.

A strong arts advocate, Vi developed her love for the stage after performing in "The Hanging Of Jack McCall." She went on to perform in 10 musicals.

However, Vi took her passion for the arts and made it into an outreach effort, Rupiper said. She tirelessly built the Yankton community concert series to 750 members, outgrowing Marian Auditorium at Mount Marty College and soon filling the newly-built Summit Activities Center theater with 1,000 seats.

"Vi pushed it to the limits," Rupiper said, adding that the larger membership led to larger funds for booking well-known acts.

That sentiment was echoed by David Folin of Allied Concert Series, who spoke at Sunday's program.

"She has been steadfast (in working) on behalf of live performances," he said. "With Vi on board, (the Yankton concert series) quadrupled its budget."

Vi now handles promotions in a number of communities for Allied Concert Series, Folin said.

Sunday's program also recognized the Ranneys' membership

in patriotic organizations. Rich Wright represented Yankton VFW Post 791, of which Brooks is a life member, while Evelyn Haynes of VFW Auxiliary Post 2966 of Scotland recognized Vi's membership since 1956.

Family recollections were offered by Brooks' son, Robert Ranney, and Vi's sister, Marilyn Kratz.

As a child, Robert Ranney said he accompanied his father to the medical clinic when the elder Ranney caught up on work during the evenings.

Dr. Ranney would even be retrieved while boating on Lewis and Clark Lake if needed by a patient, his son said.

Beside expanding the Yankton medical scene and its facilities, Brooks served the community on the Yankton City Commission and as mayor.

Brooks also served on the Yankton College Board of Trustees and the YC presidential search committee, along with expanding programs at the University of South Dakota medical school in Vermillion, Robert said.

Other family recollections came from Kratz.

Growing up, Vi preferred to help their mother in the kitchen of their Scotland home rather than play, Kratz said. Vi worked at a bank and as a telephone operator after high school graduation.

Vi raised a special-needs son as a divorced single mother and has similarly cared for the needs of others through the years, Marilyn said. Those acts ranged from visiting a neighbor with cancer at Christmas to helping World War II veterans seeking closure by touring their European battle-grounds.

"Vi has survived the Swiss Alps of ups and downs in her life," Marilyn said. "She has always been my citizen of the year."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](http://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

## OBITUARIES

### Elmer Johnson

Elmer H. Johnson, age 83, of Yankton, passed away Friday, March 1, 2013 at the Menno-Olivet Care Center, Menno, SD.

Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 5, 2012 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton. Burial of the cremated remains will be approximately 1:15 PM in the Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland, SD.

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Elmer Humphrey Johnson was born January 24, 1930 in Freeman, South Dakota to Hans and Emma (Eimerson) Johnson. Elmer went to grade school until the eighth grade where he went to Pleasant Hill School. He left school to help on the farm until his being drafted into the Army in 1952. Elmer started his training at Fort Knox where he also served guard duty at night. Elmer, along with hundreds of others, were shipped to South Korea as an Intelligence Specialist, Jeep Driver and Armed Recon Crewman with the rank of Corporal in the 2nd Recon Company APO 248. He returned to the States with an honorable discharge in 1953. Over the years, after his discharge, Elmer continued farming until he moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he was an auto mechanic for 11 years. Elmer moved back to South Dakota to help others farm until his marriage to Janis (Kolp) Johnson on December 7th, 1979. Elmer worked at Kolbergs for a couple years as a custodian until his being laid off. Elmer became a father for the first time on November 14th, 1983 when his first son Carl was born. He became father again on June 16th, 1985 when his second son Samuel was born to him. Elmer worked for Ray Hackett cleaning the bar Ray owned and landscaping the Hacketts home on Pearl Street in Yankton. Elmer and his wife Janis lived with their sons in Black Burn Apartments on Douglas until 1988 when they moved to 317



Johnson

Pearl Street where they lived until he was put in the Menno-Olivet Care Center until his death on March 1 2013. He enjoyed helping others which was apparent when he befriended Albert Brue. They worked together for at least two decades tearing apart machines, appliances, and cars for scrap until Al's Death on December 6th, 2012. He loved listening and watching westerns. Elmer's favorite movie was "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo. His favorite singer was Hank Williams. He loved the Songs "Waltz Across Texas" by Ernest Tubb, "There's A Tear In My Beer" by Hank Williams, and "Day-O" By Harry Belafonte. His favorite sayings were "That Was A Goat Snort" or "Ufta-naa," when he heard a fart, "Cheese And Crackers" when he swore politely, and he loved building things from wood, metal, especially scrap in which he made toys, and hand built a very fast go-kart, a whirly gig, and foot stool along with other items over the years. Elmer loved animals and hated it when they were mistreated.

Elmer is survived by his wife, Janis Johnson; his sons, Carl Johnson and Samuel Johnson; his sisters: Lou, Alice (LaVern), Mavis (Orv), and Faye and numbers of nieces, nephews and cousins.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents, Hans and Emma Johnson, his sisters, Elsie and Alida, and older brother, George.

He will be remembered and missed dearly by friends and family.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
March 3, 2013

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[www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com](http://www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com)

### Erna Ziegler

Funeral services for Erna Ziegler of Scotland will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday March 6 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland with Rev. Jonathan Vehar officiating. Interment will follow in Rosehill Cemetery, Scotland.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 4-8 p.m., with family present 6-8 p.m., at the Goglin Funeral Home in Scotland.

Online condolences may be sent at [www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com).

Erna Christina Jerke was born on Tuesday, September 30, 1924, on a farm southwest of Kaylor, South Dakota. She was the youngest child of Henry and Christina (Geiszler) Jerke. She was baptized on October 19, 1924 at the Posthal Lutheran Church by Rev. Koepfel and confirmed on May 12, 1940 at Zion Lutheran Church, Scotland, by Rev. Em Fuchs. Erna attended and graduated from the Geishirt School which was southwest from the homeplace. Her teen years were spent at home where she helped her parents with the farm and house work.

On September 30, 1945, Erna married Edwin Eltor Ziegler at the Emanuel Lutheran Church in Kaylor, South Dakota. They then lived and operated the Ziegler Homestead Farm northwest of Kaylor until 1980. At that time, they started and operated a gro-



Erna Ziegler

cery store in Kaylor until 1991, when they closed it and fully retired to their home in Kaylor. Erna and Edwin were blessed with five daughters: Charlene, LouAnn, Cheryl, Ellen and Lisa.

During her life, Erna kept busy caring for her children and helping her husband with the farm work and at the store. In her spare time, she enjoyed crocheting, quilting and visiting with friends (especially coffee time in Kaylor.) Prior to her marriage, Erna was a member of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Kaylor where she taught Sunday school. After her marriage, she was a member of the Dennewitz Lutheran Church until it closed and they again became members of Emanuel Lutheran in Kaylor. In 1970, they joined Zion Lutheran Church in Scotland. There Erna sang in the choir for many years, helped with quilting and was also active in the women's organization.

Due to Edwin's ill health, they moved to Luther Manor in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in De-

ember of 2005. Upon Edwin's death in February of 2007, Erna became a permanent resident of the Good Samaritan Home in Scotland. Erna passed away on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at the Good Samaritan Village in Sioux Falls, having attained the age of 88 years.

Erna is survived by her five daughters: Charlene Ziegler of Simpsonville, Kentucky, LouAnn Ziegler, Cheryl Ziegler, Ellen Smook and Lisa (Jeff) Ducheneaux, all of Sioux Falls; two granddaughters: Evelyn and Madelyn Ducheneaux; a brother, Richard (Lula Jerke) and a sister-in-law, Velda Jerke, all of Parkston.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin, on February 26, 2007; a son in infancy; her parents; six brothers: Alfred (Lorinda), Arthur (Viola), Bernhard (Anna), Hugo (Ella), Eugene (Violet), and Emil; one sister, Frieda (Bernard) Grosz; and son-in-law, Thomas Smook.

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March 3, 2013

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[www.goglinfh.com](http://www.goglinfh.com)

### Marion Kinney

Marion L. Kinney, 98, died March 1, 2013, in Santa Rosa, Calif. Marion, a Yankton native, was the daughter of Pauline and Albert Kinney.

She was preceded in death by her parents and five of her siblings.

She is survived by her brother Arthur of Stockton, Calif., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Committal will be at Yankton City Cemetery where Marion will be laid to rest with her parents and her brother, Capt. Harold Kinney.

Nieces Jean Johnson of Sioux

Falls and Krista Kinney of Benica, Calif., are in charge of the arrangements.

### Faye Beran

Faye Beran, 90, of Yankton died Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Funeral services are at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton with Rev. Bob Cappel officiating. Burial will be in the Garden of Memories.

Visitations and a time to greet the family will be from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home. Vis-

itations will resume one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

### Virginia Bee

Virginia D. Bee, 75, of Yankton died Saturday, March 2, 2013, at the Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

Memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the Kingdom Hall in Yankton, with Edward J. Wilmes officiating.

Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service is assisting with arrangements.

**HONORING THEIR MEMORY**  
*Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them*

Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

**Arthur J. Hawk**  
*who passed away on*  
**March 4, 2012**

**Jerome Wuebben**  
*who passed away on*  
**March 6, 2012**

**Mary V. James**  
*who passed away on*  
**March 7, 2012**

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory. Guiding and serving families with compassion and trust.

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