SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

LEGISLATIVE MEMORIAL SERVICE

JANUARY 23, 2014

JOINT-SELECT COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS

Senator Mike Vehle, Co-Chair
Senator Phyllis Heineman
Senator Jim Bradford

Representative Hal Wick, Co-Chair
Representative Scott Craig
Representative Steve Hickey
Representative Dennis Feickert

JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday, January 23, 2014 3:00 p.m. (CT)
House Chamber

Opening Remarks	**Senator Vehle**
Opening Prayer	**Representative Hickey**
Joint Memorial Resolution	**Senator Heineman**
"Christ, the Apple Tree" **Stanford Scriven**	***Pierre Riggs High School Chamber Choir**
Reading of the Names for Placing of the Roses	**Representative Feickert**

Elmer Diedtrich	***Mina/Aberdeen***	***House, 1989-1992, 1999-2000*** ***Senate, 2001-2002***
Jay L. Duenwald	***Hoven***	***House, 1997-2001*** ***Senate, 2003-2008***
Derald B. Gellhaus	***Yankton***	***House, 1975-1976***
Donald A. Haggar	***Sioux Falls***	***House, 1959-1960***
John B. Heilman	***Miller***	***House, 1953-1954***
Ralph D. Homan	***Mt. Vernon***	***House, 1983-1986***
Stanley A. Johnson	***Mitchell***	***House, 1968-1976***
Patricia E. Kenner	***Rapid City***	***House, 1975-1978***
Gilbert "Gil" Koetzle	***Sioux Falls***	***House, 1993-2000*** ***Senate, 2001-2008***
Alice Kundert	***Mound City***	***House, 1991-1994***
John D. Sears	***Rapid City***	***House, 1985-1996***

"Deep Peace" **Brian Tate**	***Pierre Riggs High School Chamber Choir**
Benediction	**Representative Craig**
Closing Remarks	**Representative Wick**

***Pierre Riggs High School Students directed by Mr. Rodd Bauck, Vocal Director.**

NOTE: The following biographical information has been extrapolated from the Biographical Directory of the South Dakota Legislature (1989) and the South Dakota Legislative Manual ("Blue Book") (various editions) and is current as of the publication dates.

Family members are cordially invited to a reception hosted by the Capitol Club following the Legislative Memorial Service.

The reception will be held in the Speaker's Lobby (behind the House Chamber).

WHEREAS, the Great Ruler of the Universe has ordered a final adjournment in the lives of eleven former members of the South Dakota Legislature, namely: the *Honorable Elmer Diedtrich*; the *Honorable Jay L Duenwald*; the *Honorable Derald B. Gellhaus*; the *Honorable Donald A. Haggar;* the *Honorable John B. Heilman; t*he *Honorable Ralph D. Homan;* the *Honorable Stanley A. Johnson*; and the *Honorable Patricia E. Kenner; Gilbert "Gil" Koetzle; the The Honorable Alice Kundert;* and the *Honorable John D. Sears.*

WHEREAS, in the lives of all these eminent public servants there was noted a profound urgency in an unselfish manner, with trials and vicissitudes often far outweighing honors, but with a consciousness that here in a land of freedom the dignity of the individual is supreme, that justice must be dispensed, and that only by eternal vigilance and unrelenting effort can self-government of a people be preserved; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we humbly honor the memory of those who have thus contributed to the orderly process of government under the Constitution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Eighty-ninth Session of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota duly convened in recess session in recognition of the useful lives and unfailing devotion to the interests of the State of South Dakota, as well as the rectitude of thought and action and fidelity to the highest principles of American citizenship by these honorable people, that the Senate and the House of Representatives do now pause in their labors out of respect for the memory of their late fellow associates in the functions of government, and note that in their passing, the state they have served so well has suffered a distinct loss, and though their labors have ceased and they have been laid to rest, the people of this great state have benefited greatly from the services rendered by them and they have left upon the sands of time an inspiring record of devotion to their fellow citizens under the guiding hand of Almighty God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be printed in the Journals of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Eighty-ninth Session of the Legislature of the State of South Dakota, now assembled this 23rd day of January, 2014, at Pierre, South Dakota.

Elmer Diedtrich

Born: March 31, 1927, Glencross, SD

Married: Deloris Geib, September 1, 1948

Children: DeLain, Melanie

Lutheran. Republican. Graduated from Bowdle High School, 1944; Bachelor of Science, Northern State University, 1956. World War II, US Navy Veteran. Reenlisted, assigned to the Naval Intelligence. Later joined the National Guard. Elmer was able to fly on the WW II Honor Flight. Elmer was an Insurance broker, member of Life Underwriters, Elks, Moose, and Eagles, He was a devoted member of the brotherhood of Masons and Shrine, Order Eastern Star, SD Wildlife, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited. Elmer loved snowmobiling, boating, and flying airplanes.

In 2000, Elmer was prime sponsor of the “Kuchen” bill as the state dessert.

House of Representatives 1989-1992, 1999-2000

Senate 2001-2002

Jay L. Duenwald

Born: February 26, 1937, Bowdle, SD

Married: Agnes Mack, June 25, 1962

Children: Peggy, Ernie, Valerie, Eric, Katie, Susan, Betsy, Karen

Catholic. Republican. Graduated from Hoven High School, 1955. Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering, South Dakota State University. Served in the U.S. Army two years. Returned to farming on the family farm. His highest earthly consideration was his family. A Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, served as Grand Knight, District Deputy, and highest state officer, State Deputy. Jay was SD delegate to the National Right to Life Committee from 1988 - 2011. Also President and regional director of SD Right to Life Board. Honored as SDRTL Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2011. Hoven Citizen of the Year in 1997. Avid outdoorsman. Music was a large part of Jay's life, he was a lead tenor in many events.

House of Representatives 1997-2001
Senate 2003-2008

Derald B. Gellhaus

Born: February 9, 1931, Frankfort, SD

Married: Marilyn J. Kolberg, November 25, 1955

Children: Thomas M., Brett R., Jon D.

Lutheran. Republican. Graduated from Canton High School, 1949. Graduated with Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, SD School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, SD, 1958. Served in the U. S. Navy, 1950-1954. Derald was the President and Manager, of Kolberg Manufacturing Corporation. He served City of Yankton as City Commissioner, and as a member of the Planning Commission. He served as Commissioner for SD Economic Development Commission, President of SD Manufacturer and Processors Association, Board of Directors of Citibank N/A, and the Board of Trustees at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, SD.

House of Representatives 1975-1976

Donald A. Haggar

Born: March 12, 1924, Sioux Falls, SD

Married: Ruth Miller, October 15, 1950

Children: Bruce, Patricia, Don, Paul, David, Brian (Dec.)

Episcopal. Republican. Graduated Washington High School 1942. Joined the U.S. Army, 1943, served as medic in the European theater. Earned a bronze star and a purple heart for his service to our country. Earned a law degree from the University of SD in 1950. Served in the Army reserve and later the Air Force reserve until 1961. Don practiced law and was a managing partner in K. Haggar and Brothers Grocery in Sioux Falls. Appointed SD State Highway Director, 1960. One of his proudest accomplishments during his tenure, was overseeing the construction of I-90 and I-29. Remaining in Pierre, he practiced law, served as a lobbyist, and operated a farm & ranch real estate company.

House of Representatives 1959-1960

John B. Heilman

Born: June 18, 1920, Miller, SD

Married: Lucille Morrison, December 23, 1944

Children: Linda, Craig, Douglas, John III (Dec.)

Presbyterian. Republican. Graduated from Miller High School. Joined U.S. Marine Corps, January, 1942. Served on Guadalcanal, South Pacific Islands. Awarded the Silver Star. Attended South Dakota State University. Returned to Miller and was engaged in business and farming. Employed by the US Department of Agriculture until 1985. Member Marine Corps League, lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge, Shriners, VFW, NRA, Elks, and the First Presbyterian Church of Miller. Had many interests, including hunting, sharp shooting, skiing, and flying own planes.

House of Representatives 1953-1954

Ralph D. Homan

Born: November 30, 1928, Scotland, SD

Married: Marilyn Christensen, January 9, 1952

Children: Barbara, Bruce

Methodist. Republican. Graduated from Scotland High School, 1947. Served in the U.S. Army, 1951-1953, Korea. American Legion, served as a Commander. Farmed near Mount Vernon; Owned and operated the Mid Dakota Land and Auction Company. Member of the VFW; Selective Service Committee; Masonic Lodge; SD Economic Development Finance Authority Board; USDA State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. He was a Founding member of the Mitchell Horsemen's Sports, Inc. and Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo. He was the 2005 Inductee into the Corn Palace Stampede Rodeo Hall of Fame. Representative Homan served on many other boards including: Mt. Vernon Schools, Adjustment Training Center Advisory, and Mitchell Chamber of Commerce.

House 1983-1986

Reverend Stanley A. Johnson

Born: January 13, 1925, Mitchell, SD

Married: Marjorie Barnhart, June 12, 1950

Children: Dale, Cherie, Leila, Carmen, Debbie

Presbyterian. Republican. Graduated Mitchell High School, attended Dakota Wesleyan, SD State University. Served in WW II in Germany as combat engineer. They farmed near Mitchell until 1975. At the age of 50, Reverend Johnson went into the Methodist ministry. He pastored in various churches and communities until retiring at the age of 64. He served on the Soil Conservation District as Supervisor. Member of Mason, Eastern Star, U.T.C. He served on boards for State of SD and Davison County. Mitchell. 4-H Leader. Reverend Stanley A. Johnson was appointed by Governor Nils Boe to fill a vacancy in District 17. He was re-elected to serve three more terms.

House of Representatives 1968-1976

Patricia E. (Maguire) Kenner

Born: July 9, 1929, Triumph, MN

Married: Robert “Bob” Kenner, June 7, 1952

Children: Scott, Kristen, Robyn, Terese, Todd, Paul, Mark (Dec., 1987)

Presbyterian. Democrat. One year Pre-Med, USD. Three years nursing at St. John’s McNamara. Registered nurse and homemaker. Pat was a devoted public servant. serving in the League of Women Voters, Rapid City School Board member, numerous committees dealing with vocational and special education, community health, and the arts; instrumental in starting the Rapid City Community Health Center’s Board (CHC of the Black Hills). She was honored with the SD American Association of University Women’s Equity Award, The SD Vocational Education Association’s Award of Merit, and Western Dakota Vocational Technical Institute’s Distinguished Service Award.

House of Representatives 1975-1978

Gilbert "Gil" Koetzle

Born: May 22, 1952, Sioux Falls, SD

Married: Deb Phelps, August 26, 1972

Children: Jesse, Stephanie

Catholic. Democrat. Graduated O'Gorman High School and North Dakota State School of Science and Technology. Owned sheet metal business for ten years. Served as a Firefighter in Sioux Falls for twenty years. Served as President of South Dakota AFL-CIO. Served as business agent for the Operating Engineers Local 49. Served on the SD Corrections Commission. Gil was chosen as Sioux Falls Future Leader. He was a lobbyist for Sioux Falls Firefighters and Labor. He was an active member of the Cathedral of St. Joseph; past board member of St. Vincent de Paul. Passions in Gil's life were family and community.

House of Representative 1993-2000

Senate 2001-2008

Alice Kundert

Born: July 23, 1920, Java, SD

Congregational Church. Republican. Graduated Java High School and Northern State University, Aberdeen. Taught in rural and grade schools in Campbell and Walworth Counties; managed retail establishments in California. Family illness brought Alice back to SD. She served as Campbell County Deputy Superintendent of Schools, as County Clerk of Courts, Register of Deeds, and Mound City Treasurer. Alice was elected to the South Dakota Office of State Auditor in 1969. She was elected and served as Secretary of State 1979 to 1987. She ran for Governor of the State of South Dakota and was defeated. She was appointed Coordinator of Schools for the SD Centennial celebration. She returned to Campbell County where she was elected from the 23rd District as State Representative. Alice served as promoter, advisor, counselor for the Teen Age Republican events. Alice served in many SD organizations and received numerous awards for her work with many boards. She received the Doane Robinson Award for outstanding service to the State of South Dakota in preservation of South Dakota History. Alice was inducted into the SD Hall of Fame.

House of Representatives 1991-1994

John D. Sears

Born: December 7, 1944, Oakland, NE

Married: Kristen Kay Gellerman, January 25, 1969

Children: Gyda Marie, Jeffrey John

Catholic. Republican. Graduated Decatur High School, attended Creighton University, Graduated from the University of South Dakota, 1968. Worked for International Paper; co-owner of Dakota Typewriter; Cummings and Roll Insurance Company; Sodak Gaming; International Game Technology, Reno, until retirement. Active in St. Rose of Lima Church, Reno. Knights of Columbus, Rapid City Chamber of Commerce; Director, Boys Club. Served in the House of Representatives leadership, including Legislative Research Council Executive Board Chairman. John was instrumental in winning approval for legislation creating the State-Tribal Committee and the video lottery system in South Dakota.

House of Representatives 1985-1996

South Dakota Public Broadcasting provided a live audio Webcast of the 2014 Legislative Memorial Service (at the Legislature's homepage on the Internet). This audio Webcast will be archived for future reference. You may access the Webcast at the address below.

http://legis.sd.gov/Legislative_Session/General/default.aspx?Session=2014