

June 27, 1917
Turner County
June 30, 2008
Viborg

Viborg Enterprise
July 10, 2008

In 1999 Fred and Arlette moved from their home in Viborg to a duplex adjacent to Evergreen Assisted Care. They enjoyed life there until Arlette's death in January of 2003. Later that year, Fred moved into Evergreen Assisted Living Center where he stayed until December of 2006. After a short stay in Brookings to regain his health, he returned to Viborg and became a resident of Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home until his death on June 30, 2008.

Fred deeply loved his wife and family. He greatly mourned those who passed away before him. In addition to his wife, Arlette, his parents, and his two brothers, Keith and Kenneth, preceded him in death.

Fred Knudsen is survived by 2 sons: Stanley of Brookings and Don (Lisa) of Rapid City; 4 daughters: Mary Ann (Tom) Thomas of West Point, NE, Linda (Dwight) Knuteson of Brookings, Rebecca (Halvor) Udem of Vienna, Austria, and Ramona (Brian) Jorgensen of Brookings. In addition, thirteen grandchildren: Tamara (Chad) Kurlmel, Tanya (Randy) Erickson, Bryar Ludens, Cindy Hai, Julie (Cory) Carson, Joseph and Emily Udem, Jamie (Jeff) Jongeling, Erika and Andre Jorgensen, Joshua Kassandra and Kristiana Knudsen; nine great grandchildren sister Glennys Thormodsgaard of St. Paul, MN. lifelong friend Myrtle Christiansen, and many other relatives and friends mourn his death.



Fred Knudsen

Funeral services for Fred Herbert Knudsen, age 91, were held on Thursday, July 3, 2008 at Bethany Lutheran Church, Viborg, South Dakota. Fred Knudsen was buried with full military honors at Bethania Cemetery, rural Viborg. A Rifle Squad from VFW Post 628 Sioux Falls and an honor guard detachment from the National Guard performed the ceremony that included a gun salute and the folding and presenting of the American flag. Spc. Joseph Udem, US Cavalry Scout, received the flag from the honor guard and presented it to Mary Ann (Knudsen) Thomas. "Taps" was played by Terry Mark, bugler.

Fred was born June 27, 1917 at the Fred C. Flyger residence to Carl B. and Myrtle Mae Flyger Knudsen. Reverend O. E. Tell baptized Fred December 11, 1920

at the Presbyterian parsonage at Parker, South Dakota. The Rev. H. Irving Petersen at the rural Spring Valley Lutheran Church, Viborg, South Dakota, confirmed him September 4, 1932.

Fred attended grade school at Rose Grove School, District 40. Before going to high school, he went to work for his Uncle Chris Andersen who owned a rural telephone exchange in Ruth-ton, Minnesota.

It was God's plan that he go to school at Augustana Academy where he met his future wife, Arlette. In 1941, Arlette and Fred graduated from the Lutheran Augustana Academy at Canton South Dakota. On a cold, windy, snowy afternoon, at Spring Valley Lutheran Church the Rev. Henry Iversen married them. It was Christmas Day, December 25, 1941.

Fred went to work at the John Morrell meatpacking plant in Sioux Falls where he worked until being drafted in the United States Army in July of 1942. During his service, he was trained to be a short wave radio operator in the signal corps. He was assigned to the Southwest Pacific War Zone in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. He received his Honorable Discharge from the US Army 4025th Signal Service Group in December of 1945. He had received the

grade rating of Technician 3 as a Military Occupations Specialty Teletype operator. He was also a Rifle Marksman and received numerous decorations and citations for his service.

Following his discharge, Fred and Arlette farmed for 11 years in The Spring Valley Township. They had five children while living there.

In February of 1957, Fred was sworn in as Postmaster of the US Post Office in Viborg, South Dakota. Fred and his family moved into the city of Viborg.

While Fred lived and worked in Viborg, he and his family took an active part in the church and community. He was a 50-year member of the American Legion, and a 25-year member of the Viborg Volunteer Fire Department. Fred retired as Postmaster in June of 1985 after serving in that position for 28 ½ years.

During his lifetime, Fred enjoyed gardening, hunting, fishing, camping and outdoor activities. Fred and Arlette especially enjoyed visiting family and friends.

In the years after his retirement, they had the opportunity to travel extensively, tracing their family ancestry back to Norway and Denmark and across America. Fred lived in and around Viborg his entire life and was very proud of his Danish heritage.