MARK, Dr. Custis L.

February 24, 1939
Sioux Falls
January 10, 2012
Sioux Falls

Dr. Curtis Mark



Viborg Enterprise
January 19, 2012

Dr. Curtis Mark, 72, died January 10, 2012 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. Services were held on Friday, January 13, 2012 at the First Baptist Church in Viborg and on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at the Viborg Community Center.

Curtis Mark was born in Sioux Falls, SD to Nels and Nina (Nielsen) Mark on February 24, 1939. He spoke only Dane at home, so when he started Kindergarten in Viborg, he hit a steep learning curve in quickly mastering the English language. Curt graduated from Viborg Public School in 1957 and intended to join his father in farming, but his dad insisted he attend college first. He attended South Dakota State University in Brookings, graduating in 1961 with an Agriculture degree. He returned to the farm for 3 years, but then decided to go to medical school due to his allergies to corn, oats and hog dust. He met his wife, Opal (Stene) at the Augustana College Library in Sioux Falls in 1965. She was taking a physics course and he was taking organic chemistry. They married on August 11, 1967. Curt's medical training took them to Vermillion, SD and Denver, CO. He received his medical doctor degree in 1970 from the University of Colorado and completed his family practice residency in 1973 at Wesleyan Medical Center in Wichita, KS. Shortly before the end of Curt's training, Dr. and Mrs. Kemper traveled to Wichita to invite Curt to join his medical practice with Dr. Nelson in Viborg. This is what Curt had in mind for several years, so he was happy to return to his hometown.

Curt served as a family practice physician in Viborg for 38 years, at Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The farming bug was still in his blood, so Curtis started farming and raising small animals as well. Many say he doctored to support his farming habit. He loved trees, plants and animals, and planted hundreds of trees on their farm place. He traveled frequently with his family, almost always including a visit to an arboretum or garden as well as a university. Curt also enjoyed reading, telling jokes, studying scripture, raising hogs and picking up roadkill. He was an active member of the Viborg First Baptist Church and served on the Deacon Board. The family has treasured trips out to Camp Judson in the Black Hills and mission trips were made to Honduras and Kodiak, Alaska. Curt has been blessed with four children, good friends, and a generous faith community.

Curtis is survived by his wife Opal; 3 children Kim (Kurt) Fischer of Minneapolis, MN, C. Scott (Rachel) of Brookings, SD and Tanya of St. Louis, MO; 2 grandchildren Miles and Mason Fischer; 2 sister-in-laws Janice (Ron) Erkes and Carol (Mark) Conrad; and many other relatives and friends.

Curtis is preceded in death by his parents Nels and Nina, sister Grace and daughter Valerie Jo.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to Brookings Area Habitat for Humanity or Keep South Dakota Green Assoc. of Rapid City. Register online at *www.viborgfuneralhome.com*