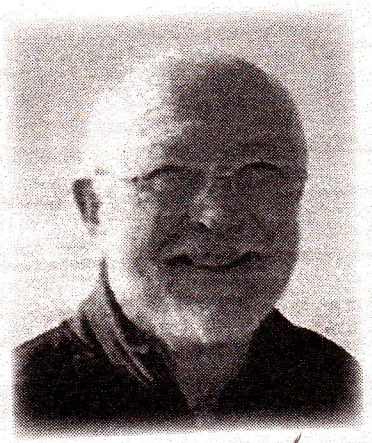
IBSEN, David A.

October 14, 1936
Tyler, Minnesota
April 17, 2016
Portland, Oregon

David Ibsen



David Arnold Ibsen, 79, died April 17, 2016 at his home in Portland, OR. He was born October 14, 1936 in Tyler, MN to mother Asta and father Harald, a Danish Lutheran pastor in the Grundtvigian tradition. Lifelong learning was a core principle of this tradition and David's love of learning was rooted not only in his natural abilities but also in his faith.

David, the eldest child, grew up with sisters Joy and Karma; and the family remembered their brother Paul, who died as a baby from a heart defect. David grew up in various communities across the upper Midwest (Diamond Lake, MN: Kimballton, IA and Viborg, SD), and those small-town memories remained vivid. David spoke only Danish at home until he started school.

David was educated at Grand View University, Carthage College, the University of Iowa and the University of Michigan, with degrees in political science and history. He served a year in Washington, DC as a congressional aide to Iowa's 1st District Congressman Schwengel. David taught for a year at Grand View College in Des Moines where he met and then married Virginia Marshall in 1961; they had two daughters Laura and Lisa. They moved in 1964 to Fullerton, CA. The couple divorced in 1974.

David spent the rest of his career as an educator and administrator at Fullerton College, a large junior college with diverse students. David saw the community college as a particularly American institution built on the values of democracy. He believed deeply in its mission to pre-pare students to make meaningful choices that would influence their lives and shape society. In the 1960's David served as advisor to the radical student union, protesting the war in Vietnam.

David excelled in teaching Government and Western Civilization, in time becoming Dean of the Social Sciences Division. At various times he served as president of the faculty, senate president, and union grievance representative. When David retired from Fullerton College in 1999 he was interim President of the College where he was highly respected for his insight into problem solving and his keen sense of humor.

Making pottery was a hobby David came to love during his years of teaching. David's pieces were in high demand at the yearly ceramic sale.

David met his wife Misty when she was a student in David's American Government class. Misty and David were married in 1976; it was a very close marriage, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually.

Laura, Lisa, Micheal and Andrea remember David as a hands-on dad who was always willing to play. There was camping in the green van, playing on the beach, building sand castles. David loved his grandchildren-David, Taylor, Tyler, Chelsea, Hannah, Kelsey, Breanna, Jessica, Nephtali and great-grandchild Charlotte. He was always good for piggyback rides and playtime in the pool. David also loved his dogs and was partial to Kerry Blue Terriers, but there were other wonderful dogs and cats too.

David's heartfelt faith sustained him throughout the almost 80 years of life. David served on First Immanuel Lutheran' Congregation Council, and helped launch their Property Development Task Force, always with a humor that lightened so many situations.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his infant brother, Paul and his stepson, Steven. David lived his life well. His favorite hymn was *Beautiful Savior*, which speaks to the beauty of nature and beauty of God's enduring love.

(This obituary is a shortened and edited version of the message presented by Pastor Melinda Wagner at David's funeral on April 23, 2016)

Viborg Enterprise
November 3, 2016