

January 5, 1916

Viborg

February 25, 2008

Naples, Florida

## Viborg and Beresford Native, Military Veteran, Lawyer, Educator and Philanthropist Dies in Florida

Elwood H. Olsen, a 30-year resident of the Naples, Florida, area, died at his home on February 25, 2008. A South Dakota native, Olsen was born on January 5, 1916, at the family home in Viborg - the residence on the east side of North Main Street that most long-time Viborg folks refer to as the Stidworthy house that later served for about 20 years as the Viborg/Kemper Hospital - that was built in 1904 by his parents, Chris H. Olsen (1878-1967) and Agneta (Tychsen) Olsen (1881-1978). At the time, his father was president of the Bank of Viborg. Agneta was the youngest daughter of Rev. Nils and Mary (Overgaard) Tychsen. Rev Tychsen was the first resident ordained pastor of the Daneville Baptist Church from 1876 to 1886 and again from 1901 until 1906.

Olsen spent his childhood and youth in both Viborg and Beresford and graduated from Beresford High School in 1934. The family moved to Beresford in 1923 where his father Chris continued his banking career and mother Agneta as a private piano instructor. Olsen then attended Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, where he graduated in 1938. From there he went to the University of Iowa School of Law in Iowa City from where he graduated in 1941. His first position out of law school was as a clerk with the United States

community activities, organizations, and his church, as well as continuing to support Morningside College.

Elwood and Grace returned to Sioux City in 1988 as the recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award and in 1990 Elwood was bestowed the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws for his guidance of the college's assets and growth of the endowment during his long service there. In 1998 the college renamed the campus commons building the Elwood and Grace Olsen Student Center in honor of their six decades of generosity and commitment to the school. Several years ago, Olsen envisioned a partnership among the Sioux City community, the public school system, and Morningside College and took the initiative in providing funds for the renovation of old Roberts Stadium for the use of all students of football and track and field sports. Thanks to his generous contributions, the 2.6 million dollar renovations and improvements were begun in June of 2004 on the 10,000 seat facility. The agreement stated that Morningside College would lease the stadium for 99 years based on their 2.3 million dollar contributions and that the Sioux City school district could use the stadium in perpetuity. On August 16, 2005, it was dedicated and renamed in his honor - The Elwood Olsen Stadium.

Viborg Enterprise  
April 24, 2008

Circuit Court of Appeals before becoming an officer in the United States Navy where he earned five battle stars while serving on an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific. Following World War II he earned a master of law degree from George Washington University and was then employed with the United States Department of Justice until 1948 when he returned to Sioux City and Morningside College where he took charge of the business operations of the school and also served as vice-president of the business department. After 30 years at the college - which also included participation in community and civic activities such as Kiwanis, Boy Scouts, United Way campaigns, Grace United Methodist Church, and as a Sioux City bank director, Olsen and his wife Grace, whom he met while both were undergraduate students at Morningside, retired to Naples, Florida in 1978, where he continued to be active in local civic and

A memorial reception honoring the life and accomplishments of Elwood Olsen was held in Naples on March 2nd of this year. A family burial service took place this past Saturday afternoon, April 19th, at the Baptist Cemetery a mile east of Viborg where his remains were laid to rest beside his wife Grace, who died on December 9, 1998, and on the lots where also are buried his parents and a young brother who died on June 9, 1911, at the age of 16 months. Another memorial service was held on Sunday afternoon, April 20th, at Grace United Methodist Church in Sioux City. Olsen is survived by three children - Ty, Le, and Christine, eight grandchildren, and a sister - Ruth Granstrom, who was also born in Viborg and now resides in Middletown, New Jersey.