LARSON, Donald D.

September 7, 1930
Hurley
November 26, 2011
Longview WA

Viborg Enterprise
December 8, 2011

Donald D. Larson



Donald D. Larson, 81, of Longview died Nov. 26, 2011, at the Hospice Care Center.

He was born Sept. 7, 1930, in Hurley, S.D., to Minnie Larson (Lee) and Donald D. Nelson on a farm outside of town his grandparents were renting. He was adopted and raised by his grandparents, Hans and Maren Larsen, both of whom immigrated from Denmark. They had 12 other children. He graduated from Viborg High School in South Dakota in 1948.

Don moved to Sioux Falls and worked for Gamble's for several years. He joined the Navy in 1951 and was assigned to the aircraft carriers, the USS Oriskiny and the USS Yorktown, both stationed in the Pacific. Don was assigned an airplane on the carriers to service for the pilots, like an airplane mechanic. He was discharged in 1955.

He married Patricia Kickabush in 1951, and they had a daughter, Susan. Patricia preceded him in death in 1986, and Susan followed in 1999.

Don married Gail (Ferguson) Dunbar May 22, 1989, gaining two stepdaughters, Leslie (Dan) Eaton of Longview and Jennifer (Duane) Plant of Polson, Mont. He also has four grandchildren, Jessica and Madison Eaton, and Sydney and Jarrod Plant.

He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church for many years, serving as an elder and the church treasurer. In 2005, Don and Gail moved to Las Vegas but they recently returned to Longview to be closer to friends and family.

Don never met a stranger. He was a warm and giving man and befriended almost everyone he met. He was a devoted family man.

A memorial service was held at Steele Chapel at Longview Memorial Park.