



Emeroy A. Swanson

November 6, 1923 - October 4, 2013

Emeroy Anders "Em" Swanson, 89, of Bismarck, North Dakota, passed away on October 4, 2013, at his home in Touchmark in the care of loving friends and family. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 12, at First Lutheran Church with Pastor Allen Wagner officiating. Please join Em's family at Bismarck Municipal Country Club, 930 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. to share memories. Military graveside services will be held at the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Mandan, North Dakota, at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, October 14, 2013. Visitation will be Friday from 5:00 – 9:00 PM at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck, and will continue on Saturday one hour prior to the service at the church. Em was born November 6, 1923, at St. Peter, Minnesota, to Reverend A. M. and Inga Lofgren Swanson. He was educated in McIntosh, Minnesota, and Sheyenne, North Dakota, where he graduated from high school. After his first year of college in Wahoo, Nebraska, he enlisted in the United States Air Force at Camp Dodge, Iowa, on December 7, 1942, and became a Flight Officer serving as a navigator on a B-17. He served overseas in England with the 457th Bomb Group of the United States 8th Air Force, his missions including bombing raids and transporting prisoners of war out of Germany at the end of the war. He was honorably discharged January 21, 1945, at Lowry Field Air Base in Denver, Colorado. Em attended college at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and graduated from Jamestown College in Jamestown, North Dakota, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree before earning a

Master's Degree in Education at the University of North Dakota. He taught at Garrison, North Dakota, for five years before joining the teaching faculty at Bismarck High School. After six years as a classroom teacher, Em served as assistant principal for seven years. Em proudly served as principal of Bismarck High School for 18 years until his retirement in 1984. His dedication to his students was a motivational factor in his membership in a variety of professional organizations, including North Dakota School Administrators. After his retirement from public education, Em continued to contribute to his community by serving two terms on the Bismarck City Commission from 1984 until 1992. Em was a devout member of First Lutheran Church in Bismarck attending Sunday services right up to his final days. He was a member of the Bismarck Lions Club and served as the first president of the Lions Eye Bank of North Dakota. He was also a member of the Bismarck-Mandan Elks Lodge, Three Crowns Swedish American Association, the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1948, Em married Agnes Swanson of Washburn, North Dakota. They had three children, Stephen, Rebecca and Mark. Agnes died in 1974, and Em later married Ardys Munson, adding her son Mark to his family. Em is survived by his daughter, Becky Greg Gehrke of Phoenix, Arizona; his sons, Stephen Sally Hoffmann of Minot, North Dakota, and Mark Pam Hopkins of Tucson, Arizona; his step-son, Mark Jean Munson of Centreville, Virginia; his eight grandchildren, Jaeson Lisa, Ileah, Kelly Bob, Jay, Kathryn, Mark, Jr., James, and Matthew; five great-grandchildren, Karsten, Keira, Avery, Ellie, and Parker; his brother, Paul Marilyn Swanson of Bismarck and the families of his three children; and his sisters, Mary Ann Doug Wessell of La Quinta, California, and the families of her two children, and Jean C.W Faucett of Bakersfield, California, and the families of her four children. Em was a man of great charm and goodwill, a true gentleman. He cherished his friends and had many people in his life who cared deeply for him. The final years of his life were enriched by the people closest to him; his children, his brother and sister-in-law, his friends who visited him and made sure he still attended the Thursday Morning Coffee Bunch and Bismarck High

School football and Basketball games, and the people who made sure he was safe and healthy in his home. His family will always be grateful for all those caring and professional staff members of Touchmark who created a genuine home for Em for the last two years of his life. He loved the Missouri River and enjoyed living on the prairie participating in all the activities that North Dakota offered. He was always ready for a drive to explore the farms, ranches and wilderness areas of the North Dakota prairie as he shared stories of his life and the people he held close. He especially delighted in visiting the Washburn Swansons and seeing all of their farming in process. Em loved all the activities North Dakota offered: it's wonderful people, hunting, boating, fishing, golfing, and especially cheering on the Bismarck High School Demons. The family asks that memorials for Em be made to First Lutheran Church of Bismarck, North Dakota, or to the Birka Lutheran Church in McLean County, North Dakota.

Tribute Wall

CT

“ Our sympathy and respect to the family. We had the true pleasure of knowing Em through Mark and Jean Munson. He was always an easy man to talk to and a true gentleman. We are sorry to hear about his passing but know because of him many people were touched by his presence. God bless you Em and your family.

Carol and Nick Trentacost - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I've been out of the country for 2 weeks and thus missed the services for dear Em. Mr. Swanson was my high school principal, and later it was Em who called to ask me to consider an English/journalism position, which I took. Em was virtually unflappable! Fellow teacher Tom Hesford once said that just to keep the roof on BHS during the tumultuous late 60s and early 70s with kids spilling out of the seams before Century opened would have been legacy enough for one man. But Em was so much more. Considering how many students he had encountered, he had a knack for remembering what activities a former student had been in and was quick to reminisce about those experiences. That great smile, that welcoming greeting, that positive attitude. He never really changed--and that is a very good, difficult thing to do. My deepest, heartfelt sympathy to all of you--his family. Em's physical presence may be gone, which all of us will truly miss, but he lives on in so many of us in so many ways, and the memories are so rich and warm. The earth is a better place because he was among us. Rita Kelly

Rita Kelly - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Our condolences mark and Pam to you and your family. Deb and Dennis scherr.

Deb scherr - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ thanks for having the time to teach me in high school. I made it Em. goodbye.

mike roehrick - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ Roger Branning: M was always very nice to me. We shared some command places. Jamestown, Garrison Dam, basketball and life

Roger Branning - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ I'll never forget that phone call from Mr. Swanson! In the spring of 1970 I was student teaching at Bismarck High School under the supervision of Ev Miller. One evening I received a phone call from the principal telling me that there was going to be an opening in Spanish and that he wanted me to consider it. I was thrilled since I was thoroughly enjoying teaching and the school, even though it meant leaving my major behind. I happily taught Spanish in the Bismarck Public Schools for 33 years. Thanks, Em!My thoughts and prayers are with all of you today-I'd be there if I weren't ill. Thank you for sharing such a good guy with all of us!

Ralston, Mary Kay Keller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ *Mr. Swanson was always a kind and gentle man. He was an integral part of First Lutheran and BHS. Peace and good memories to his family.*

Robin Barth Erickson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *I have memories from both school and church and they are all good. My parents, Malcolm and Hilda Hetherington thought a great deal of Emory. One of the good guys.*

Altha Schellenberg - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *I will always remember Em with fondness and respect. He and Ardie were wonderful friends to my parents, Gene and Mary Ann Miller, and as such became part of our extended family. Having Em and Ardie at my wedding was like having a part of Mom and Dad there with me that day, and for that I will always be grateful. Em will live on in the memories of all the Miller kids, just as he will in the hearts and minds of all those whose lives he touched over the years in all facets of his life. He was a wonderful man, and will be missed by us all.*

Diane Miller - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ *What a gentle, kind man. It is sad to think of him passing. He had that wonderful ability to make a student feel so special. Rest in Peace, Em.*

Robb Boyd - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

FB

“ Swanson family. My heart goes out to each of you. You will all be in my thoughts and prayers. Mr. Swanson was truly a remarkable man. He was an administrator of a school but to all of us who roamed the halls of BHS, he was a friend. A person we could laugh with, count on being there to cheer us on at games and yes when we crossed the line to reign us back in. I am glad I had the opportunity to attend a school led by such a wonderful man. He made me want to teach and to treat my students as he had me, as someone they could feel comfortable talking to but yet being the leader when needed. May God hold you tight in his arms tonight as he welcomes you home. Mr. Swanson. Rest in peace. Fay Bergley

Fay Bergley - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ How does one start to speak of a man who made such a difference not only in our community, but to those of us who were blessed to see him each day at Touchmark! Em was one of the "Good Guys"! Em will truly be missed. The only thing wrong was Em was such a Demon fan, but we will forgive him for that!

Carolynn Johnson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ My Condolences to Steve, Becky, Mark, and Bob. "The nice man next door" was your dear Emeroy. Bob was one of my childhood friends growing up and I got to spend even more time with Bob when he would come and visit uncle Em. What a kind man, who would always take the time to chat with the little boy 'next door'. I wish you comfort and peace at this difficult time.

Bloom, Jeffrey, Moorhead, MN - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *My Condolences to your Family on your loss. I am sure he was a wonderful person and that someone loved him dearly and he will be missed. I know because I loss my Dad and two brother's at a very young age. people say that death is part of life and that it touch's everyone at some point in their life, that maybe true. But it's not what our Creator intended for us. I found comfort in God's word and I'm sure you can too. Jehovah God promise to resurrect those who are asleep in death in the future, not only does he have the power to do so but he has the desire to. I found comfort in the following scriptures and I pray that they bring you comfort in the time of your grief. Romans 6:23 For the wages sin pays is death, but the gift God gives is everlasting life by Christ Jesus our Lord. John 5:28,29 Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out. May sweet memories continue to surround you and bring you comfort. Deepest Sympathy,*

Sonia, Richmond Hill, NY - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Erica Swanson - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM