

August 11, 2004

Obit: Irvin Fliels



- Funeral services for Irvin Fliels, 79, of Claremont will be 10:30am, Thursday, August 12th at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Military rites will be provided by the Harold Feser Legion Post #262.
- Visitation will be held at the church on Wednesday from 2-8pm, with a prayer service at 7:00. Visitation will continue prior to services on Thursday.
- Irvin died August 9, 2004 at his home in the care of his family following many years of Chronic Pulmonary Disease and in recent months, lung cancer.
- Irvin C. Fliels was born October 3, 1924 at the farm house of Robert and Christina Fliels near James. He was the second son of his parents, who had moved to South Dakota from Wisconsin in the early 1920s. He attended rural grade schools in Henry Township and graduated from Groton High School with the class of 1942. During his high school years, he worked for area farmers before starting to farm with his father. In March 1945, he entered the United States Army. Following the end of WWII, he received his honorable discharge at Fort Ord, California and returned to South Dakota.
- On September 25, 1946 he was united in marriage to Janice Lilja at the Lilja farm home near Claremont. The couple established their first home on the Pur-Lee farm, West Hanson Township, and it was here that two sons were born to them.
- In 1950, following the death of Janice's father, Hjalmer Lilja, they moved to the Lilja farm in rural Claremont. This is where his children, three sons and two daughters, attended rural schools and grew to young adults. Irvin and Janice worked as partners on their family farm which included producing grain crops, raising livestock and poultry and milking cows. Through the years they continued working together in several business ventures. Irvin became a Dixon lawnmower dealer in 1977. He continued to sell and service Dixon mowers until the time of his death.
- From 1986-2003 Irvin and Janice spent their winters in the Ft. Meyers, Florida area where they made a host of friends. Many of them were from the Midwest that they visited during the summer. These friends were always in touch throughout the year.
- Born a farmer who loved and cared for his community, state and nation, he at tempted to promote the American farmer in many ways. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and considered himself a sportsman and conservationist. In recent years his opening day of deer season party was an important day for many friends and family.
- He was active in St. John's Lutheran Church, the American Legion, a charter member of the Brown County National Farmers Organization, the Groton Development Partnership and the Aberdeen Area Medical Foundation.
- In recent years he would be seen attending the many school function which his fourteen grandchildren were a part of. He especially enjoyed watching the Groton Tigers playing football on the same field he had played on some sixty years ago.
- Grateful for having shared his life are his wife of 58 years, Janice Fliels of Claremont, five children: Larry (Valerie) Fliels of Groton, Gary (Kris) Fliels of Claremont, Jeannette (Bob) Wegner of Bella Vista, AR, Lorin (Julie) Fliels of Claremont, and Shirlee Briggs of Groton; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren: Amber Stumpf and daughters Kourtni and Kassidi, Bret (Raechel) Fliels, Lynde (Darin) Ross and daughters Chandler and Kennedy, Lance (Joann) Fliels and daughter Kamryn, Matthew (Janelle) Wegner and daughter Kaitlin, Jeff (Bridget) Fliels and daughter Madeline, Jarod (Kristie) Fliels and daughters Ashley and Megan, Dawn (Mike) Imrie and daughter Brooklyn, Kalli Fliels, Tigh (Tasha) Fliels, Amanda and Amy Briggs, and Jonathan and Sarah Fliels; two brothers, Marvin (MaryAnn) Fliels of Cogswell, ND and Don (Janis) Fliels of Belle Glade, FL; one sister, Irene Nehls of Belle Glade, FL.
- He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother Robert.
- Casketbearers will be all of his grandsons and honorary Casketbearers will be all of his granddaughters.

Irvin Flihs, 79

Irvin Flihs, 79, Claremont, died Monday, Aug. 9, 2004 at his home, in the care of his family, following many years of Chronic Pulmonary Disease and in recent months, lung cancer.

His funeral will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 12, 2004 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton, with the Rev. Craig Grams officiating. Burial will be in Groton Union Cemetery, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. Military rites will be provided by the Harold Feser Legion Post #262. Visitation will be at the church 2 - 8 p.m., Wednesday, with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Visitation will continue prior to the service, Thursday.



Irvin C. Flihs was born October 3, 1924 to Robert and Christina Flihs, at their farm home near James. He was the second son of his parents, who had moved to South Dakota from Wisconsin in the early 1920s. He attended rural grade schools in Henry Township and graduated from Groton High School in 1942. During his high school years, he worked for area farmers, before starting to farm with his father. In March 1945, he entered the United States Army. After the end of WWII, he received his honorable discharge at Fort Ord, Calif., and returned to South Dakota.

He was united in marriage to Janice Lilja September 25, 1946 at the Lilja farm home, near Claremont. The couple established their first home on the Pur-Lee farm, West Hanson Township, and it was here that two sons were born.

After the death of Janice's father, Hjalmer Lilja, in 1950, they moved to the Lilja farm, rural Claremont, where their children, three sons and two daughters, attended rural schools and grew to young adults. Irvin and Janice worked as partners on their family farm, which included producing grain crops, raising livestock and poultry, and milking cows. Through the years, they continued working together in several business ventures. Irvin became a Dixon lawnmower dealer in 1977, and continued to sell and service Dixon mowers until the time of his death.

Irvin and Janice spent their winters, 1986-2003, in the Ft. Meyers, Fla. area, where they made a host of friends. Many of those were from the Midwest, whom they visited during the summer. These friends were always in touch throughout the years.

Born a farmer, who loved and cared for his community, state and nation, Irvin attempted to promote the American farmer in many ways. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and considered himself a sportsman and conservationist. In recent years, his 'opening day of deer season party' was an important day for many friends and family.

He was active in St. John's Lutheran Church, the American Legion, a charter member of the Brown County National Farmers Organization, the Groton Development Partnership, and the Aberdeen Area Medical Foundation.

In recent years, Irvin would be seen attending the many school functions, which his 14 grandchildren were a part of. He especially enjoyed watching the Groton Tigers play football on the same field he had played on some 60 years ago.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife of 58 years, Janice Flihs, Claremont; five children: Larry (Valerie) Flihs, Groton; Gary (Kris) Flihs, Claremont; Jeannette (Bob) Wegner, Bella Vista, Ark.; Lorin (Julie) Flihs, Claremont, and Shirlee Briggs, Groton; 14 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren: Amber Stumpf and daughters, Kourtnei and Kassidi; Bret (Raechel) Flihs; Lynde (Darin) Ross and daughters, Chandler and Kennedy; Lance (Joann) Flihs and daughter, Kamryn; Matthew (Janelle) Wegner and daughter, Kaitlin; Jeff (Bridget) Flihs and daughter, Madeline; Jarod (Kristie) Flihs and daughters, Ashley and Megan; Dawn (Mike) Imrie and daughter, Brooklyn; Kalli Flihs; Tigh (Tasha) Flihs; Amanda and Amy Briggs, and Jonathan and Sarah Flihs; two brothers, Marvin (MaryAnn) Flihs, Cogswell, ND, and Don (Janis) Flihs, Belle Glade, Fla.; and one sister, Irene Nehls, Belle Glade, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Robert.

Casketbearers will be all of his grandsons and honorary casketbearers will be all of his granddaughters.