

February 15, 2003

VERNON A. "VERN" HOWLAND

- The funeral for Vernon A. "Vern" Howland, of Hecla, South Dakota will be held on Saturday, February 15, 2003 at 2:00 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hecla, with Reverend Al Magnuson officiating. Burial will be at the Hecla Cemetery, Hecla.
- Vernon Arthur "Vern" Howland, son of Ray and Velda (McGarvie) Howland was born on December 2, 1911 in De Smet, South Dakota, where he grew up and attended school. He entered the U.S. Army in March of 1942, where he served his country as a corporal with the 7th Medical Division during W.W. II. Vern was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, Eastern Mandales, South Philippines and Ryukyus. He was also active in the Pacific Theater, Hawaiian Islands and Okinawa. Vern received many medals for his service time, including the First Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star and the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal. After an honorable discharge in 1945, Vern returned to South Dakota where he began working for Donald "Bing" Miller farm. He was united in marriage to Mavis Elsen on February 18, 1949 in Hecla, South Dakota. The couple made their home south of Houghton, South Dakota until retiring in 1972 and moving into Hecla. Vern worked on bicycles and cared for many people in the area over the years. He enjoyed gardening, but his true love was spending time with Mavis and his family. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Hecla, a past member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Houghton, and had served on both church councils.
- Vern died on Tuesday, February 11, 2003 at MeritCare Hospital in Fargo, North Dakota. He was 91 years old.
- He is survived by his wife, Mavis, Hecla, SD; one son, Tim (Jeanne) Howland, Mankato, MN; one daughter, Judy Berquam, Dilworth, MN; three granddaughters, Jennifer (Todd) Hocking, Fargo, ND, Sarah Berquam, Dilworth, MN, and Kris (Jon) Nordman, Fargo, ND; three great-granddaughters, Nicki and Emily, and Taylor; one brother, Lloyd (Corrine) Howland, Council Bluffs, IA; and one sister, Fern Coy, Sioux Falls, SD; and one sister-in-law, Margarette Howland, Everett, WA. Vern was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and one sister.
- Pallbearers for the funeral will be Paul Larson, Jon Frohling, Darrell Berreth, Lloyd Trautmann, Rod Heinrich, Don Miller, Duane Dinger and Ron Elsen. Sandy Dinger, Rose Moerke, and Dianne Ulmer will sing as a trio and Janet Elsen will be organist for the service. Dahlstrom Funeral Home in Oakes is in charge of the funeral arrangements.