

# John M. Westby

1-9-90

GROTON - The funeral for John M. Westby, 63, Groton, a teacher and debate coach, was held at 1 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton, and at 2 p.m. at the Groton High School Auditorium, Thursday, Jan. 4. The Rev. Ann Maldoon and the Rev. Diedrick Nelson, Brandon, officiated.

Burial was in Groton Union Cemetery with military rites by Groton Legion Post #39. Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, was in charge of arrangements.

A prayer service was held Wednesday at the funeral chapel.

Groton Schools were closed Thursday.

He died at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, Sunday, Dec. 31, 1989.

John M. Westby was born July 17, 1926, in Troy Township, Day County, near Lily, to Sivert and Gunda (Moe) Westby. He graduated in 1944 from Lily High School. He served in Korea during World War II. He attended Augustana College for one year.

He married Fern Bury July 16, 1949, in Butler. He farmed at his parent's home near Lily. The family moved to Groton in 1959 to attend Northern College and receive his bachelor degree in 1962. He taught in the Groton School System for two years. They moved to Houston, Minn., where he worked as a Lay Pastor and director of youth education. In 1964, the family moved back to Groton and Mr. Westby taught in the Groton High School and was the debate coach.

He received his master's degree in 1975 from Northern.

He was elected South Dakota Debate Coach of the Year in 1981. He was a National Forensic League Diamond Key Coach of Debate. He was the chairman of the Upper Dakota Forensic League for the past two years.

Survivors include his wife of Groton; three sons, Jim Westby, Los Angeles, Calif., Ron Westby, Groton, Chuck Westby, South Lake Tahoe,



Calif.; one daughter, Mrs. Stanley (Kathy) Knudsen, Groton; and three grandchildren, Chuck, Susy and Natalie.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Honorary casketbearers were debate coaches, Steve Hammersma, Judy Kroll, Ken Pickering, Wade Pogany, Donus Roberts, Bob Stevens, Carl Swanson, Bill Zubke and Doug Tschetter.

Casketbearers at the church were Darrell Westby, Allen Ask, Randy Bury, Kim Lindquist, Paul Peterson and Maurice Olsen.

Mrs. Douglas Doeden was organist at the church and school. The church congregation sang, "Children of the Heavenly Father" and "This is My Father's World". Jeanne and Marvine Obermeier sang, "In The Garden". The church choir sang, "Still, Still, With Thee".

At school the congregation sang, "How Great Thou Art", "I Love To Tell The Story", and "Oh, Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Gene Brodin sang "He'll Understand." The church choir sang "Magnificent The Season". Cassie Ackman and Greg Clocksene sang a duet, "Amazing Grace", with the choir.

Ushers at the school were Carroll Dean, Bill Lovell, Loren Locken, Lauren Harrison, Les Hinds, Don Donley,

Myron Ragatz. Ushers at the church were Jim Lane and Roy Olson.

Speakers at the school were the Rev. Ann Maldoon, the Rev. Jon Simundson, Superintendent William Ganje, Stephanie Herseth, and Carl Swanson, debate coach from Sioux Falls Lincoln. Connie Stauch was at the guest book.