

July 14, 2006

Gary Odland

- The funeral for Gary Odland, 70, Groton and formerly of Pierre, will be held today at the United Methodist Church, Groton, with the Rev. Jan Price officiating. A second funeral service will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Pierre, with the Rev. Howard Grinager officiating. Burial will be at the Groton Union Cemetery on Saturday at 4 p.m. He died Wednesday, July 5, 2006, at his home in Groton.
- Gary was born on December 21, 1935 on a farm near Irene, SD to Elmer and Hazel (Christensen) Odland. Shortly after that, his family moved to a farm west of Claremont. Gary attended a one room country school at Daly Corners and



graduated from Claremont High School in 1952. Gary enlisted in the US Navy in December of 1953. While in the navy, he served as an electricians mate, and sang with the Blue Jackets Choir, while he sailed around the world on the USS Haynsworth. After he was honorably discharged in December of 1956, Gary decided to attend SDSU in the fall of 1957. While there, he discovered the three things that would matter the most to him. Electrical engineering would be his career, singing with the Statesman Chorus led to a lifelong love of singing, and he met the girl with whom he would spend the rest of his life.

- Gary met Susan Greek on a blind date early in 1958. After a brief engagement, they were united in marriage on August 24, 1958 at the 1st United Methodist Church in Huron. In September 1959, their first child, a girl named Jo Dee was born.

- Gary graduated from SDSU in 1961. After graduation they moved to Coon Rapids, MN where he worked as an Electrical Engineer for Honeywell. In 1962, a second child, a boy named Tod was born. It was in Minneapolis that Gary became involved with Barbershop singing, even involving his family in the shows the chorus put on at the Northrup Auditorium. In 1970 they were transferred to Palatine, IL outside of Chicago. They made lots of new friends and learned all about some of the best food in the world. And of course, the singing continued. In 1973, they moved to Dresher, PA and learned more about history in Philadelphia. Gary enjoyed being in Barbershop quartets in each of these locations, even forming a new charter Barbershop chorus while in Dresher. In 1987 they were transferred once again to Phoenix, AZ where the heat is dry and the Barbershoppers are champions. In 1991 Gary became a grandpa and discovered how much fun kids can be when they are not yours. In 1993 they moved to York, PA and at last had a basement big enough

to unpack the numerous boxes of model trains Gary had acquired over the years. Between the singing and playing with the trains, life was good. Gary retired from Honeywell in 1997 and they decided to move back to South Dakota to help take care of Susan's mother in Pierre. In 2006 they moved to Groton, SD to be closer to their grandkids.

- Gary took great delight in being a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA), the American Legion and Sons of Norway. Gary immensely enjoyed singing in Barbershop Quartets and Church Choirs. He also had a lot of fun with his model trains, and playing with his grandkids.

- Gary is survived by his wife Susan Odland of Groton, SD; two children JoDee McCranie and husband John of Houghton, SD and Tod Odland and wife Laura of Cherry Hill, NJ; 5 grandchildren Courtland, Grayson and Kiernan McCranie of Houghton and Samantha and Rachel Odland of Cherry Hill, NJ; two sister-in-laws Lorelii Odland of Groton, SD and Cathy Brock and husband Greg of Pierre.

- He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers Ronald and Randall.