

The Life of former Mayor Gerald Rix



Services for Gerald "Jerry" Rix, 92, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Saturday, September 30th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial with Masonic Rites will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 5-7 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Jerry passed away September 27, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen.

Gerald Lloyd was born on August 5, 1925 in Aberdeen to Floyd A. and Lillian E. (Walter) Rix. He attended school in Riverside as a child and graduated from Groton High School in 1943. Jerry continued his education at Northern State College. He returned to the family farm, working beside his father and brother. On September 14, 1952, he was united in marriage with Anna Sammuli at the Savo Lutheran Church, rural Frederick. The couple made their home in Groton.

Jerry, known as Gil Favor by many, was a very active member of the Groton United Methodist Church, serving on many boards. He was very proud of the recognition pin he received from the UMW for his contributions to the church. Jerry was a leader in public service, having served on the Groton School Board for 25 years, Groton City Council for 5 years and as Mayor of Groton for 17 years (1990-2007) also serving on municipal boards during this time. In addition, Jerry was a member of the Groton Masonic Lodge, Yelduz Shrine, a past member of the Groton Kiwanis Club and the Dacotah Bank board. He was quietly instrumental and generous with many civic improvements and greatly enjoyed his time on the bank board and being mayor even through the tough times. He pursued his passion for flying by obtaining his pilot's license and owning his own plane. Jerry enjoyed reading - especially WWII history.

Celebrating his life are his wife, Ann, of Groton, his children, Roger (Pamela) Rix of Groton, Elaine (Fred) Wolken of Piedmont, Teresa (Larry) Enze of Sioux Falls; his grandchildren, Grant (Tracy) Rix, Jarrett Rix, Mary Ann Rix, Jessica (Mike) Hauck, Adam Grams, Alana (David) White, Amber Wolken and fiancé Bryce Sombke, Sheila Taul, Wendy (Jamie) Howard, Christa (Mike) Sports, Logan Enze and Erin Enze. Jerry is also survived by his great-grandchildren: Gideon & Conrad Rix, Justin & Casey Taul, Neva & Theresa Howard, Nicholas Lane, Rowan Shepherd, his sister-in-law, Nora Rix, and special friends Anita and John Lowary.

Preceding him in death were his parents, an infant sister, his brother, William Rix and daughter-in-law, Marian Rix.

Casketbearers will be Grant Rix, Jarrett Rix, Logan Enze, David White, Bryce Sombke, Adam Grams, Mike Hauck and John Lowary.

Gil Favor has pulled his last Hank Snow.