

Jack DeVany, Vermillion, S.D., passed away on May 1, 2009, at his home in rural Vermillion in the care of his family and home health. A celebration of life was held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church north of Vermillion. The Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion is handling the arrangements.

John "Jack" Spaulding DeVany was born in Williston, N.D., and spent much of his childhood in Mobridge, S.D. The family later moved to Vermillion where Jack helped set type for his father at the Vermillion Plain Talk after school. He graduated a year early from high school and immediately joined the Navy. He was stationed aboard a Floating Dry Dock near the Philippines at the end of World War II.



Following his military service, Jack graduated with an Engineering degree from the University of South Dakota (which also included a year at the University of Michigan). His engineering career included work with a Chicago engineering firm that worked on the New Jersey Turnpike as well as time in Sioux City, Iowa; Vermillion; and Elkhart, Ind. Upon returning to Vermillion to help care for his mother, Jack enrolled in the University of South Dakota School of Law and graduated in 1960.

Jack was united in marriage to Arlene Ostlund on April 7, 1962, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Hub City, S.D. The family moved to Pierre, S.D., in 1968 where Jack served as an Assistant Attorney General until 1972. Jack, Arlene and the children returned to Vermillion where Jack began private law practice and the family made their home on the Ostlund family homestead. Although raised as a "city boy," Jack came to deeply love life on the farm and being part of the Dalesburg area community.

Jack was always community-minded and supported several local activities and organizations, including serving 12 years on the Vermillion School Board. The Vermillion Rotary Club and the Vermillion Senior Citizens Center, especially Meals on Wheels, were also of great importance to him; as was his service to his church, the Christian Science church in Yankton, S.D.

Wednesday morning bowling; work with the Clay Rural Water system, of which he was an original board member; music events; and especially time spent with family and dog, Maggie, were all things he greatly enjoyed.

Grateful for having shared Jack's life are his wife, Arlene DeVany; his daughter, son-in-law and grandson, Mary DeVany, Rex Bishman and Adam Bishman of Harrisburg, S.D.; his son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters, Thomas, Kelly, Sarah and Emily DeVany of Houston, Texas; and his daughter, Ann DeVany of Pierre, S.D. Jack is also survived by his sister-in-law, Eleanor (Guy) DeVany of North Attleboro, Mass.; his sister-in-law, Leota (Herb) DeBeer of Mesa, Ariz.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, D. C. and Marietta (Spaulding) DeVany; his brothers Guy, Phil and Bob; Bob's wife, Ann; and a special aunt, Lucia "Blossom" Spaulding. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be directed to Meals on Wheels with the Vermillion Senior Citizens Center, the Vermillion Rotary Club scholarship fund, or the Dalesburg Lutheran Church mowing fund.