



Back row: Patsy Lennon Manton, Mae Walz Easton, Carolyn Cusick Stark, Gerry Schmidt, Gay Winters Zimmerman, Mark Erickson, Dan Christopherson, Judi Gilbaugh Berg, Ron Watson. Front row: Lana Sesler Dietrich, Susan Gutzman Seipp, Donna Gross, Adella Bechtold Anderson, Larry Bottolfson, Mike O'Connor. Not pictured: Ellinor Urup Tomlinson.

Members of VHS Class of '65 reunite

Sixteen members of the Vermillion High School Class of 1965, along with 7 spouses, met the weekend of February 24-26 in Tucson, Arizona. Hostess for the gathering was Adella Bechtold Anderson, who had planned several events, including a tram ride through Sabino Canyon and visits to the Pima Air & Space Museum and San Xavier Mission. Special guests for the event were former English teacher Donna Gross and her husband Pat. Also joining the group was Dennis Swanson, VHS Class of 1963. Connie Lefler Whitaker, who was not able to be in Tucson, visited with several of the class members in Phoenix. The Class of '65 will hold its 50th reunion August 6-9, 2015 in Vermillion.

Petition deadline is March 27

Secretary of State Jason Gant reminds people interested in running for office that petitions for political party candidates are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27.

"We are currently only two weeks away from the deadline when petitions are due. Petitions must be personally delivered or mailed via registered mail no later than 5 p.m. on the 27th of March," Gant said.

"I want to remind candidates that if they choose to mail petitions close to the deadline that under state law, they must use registered mail,"

Gant said. "Certified mail or regular first class mail is not suitable for this purpose to guarantee delivery to this office. It is heartbreaking to see candidates mistakenly send petitions in certified mail at the last minute, only to have their petitions rejected for that reason."

Independent candidates may still continue to gather signatures for an extended period of time, until 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 5.

A listing of all candidates for office - county and state - may be found at <http://sdsos.gov/elections>.

Honoring & Remembering:

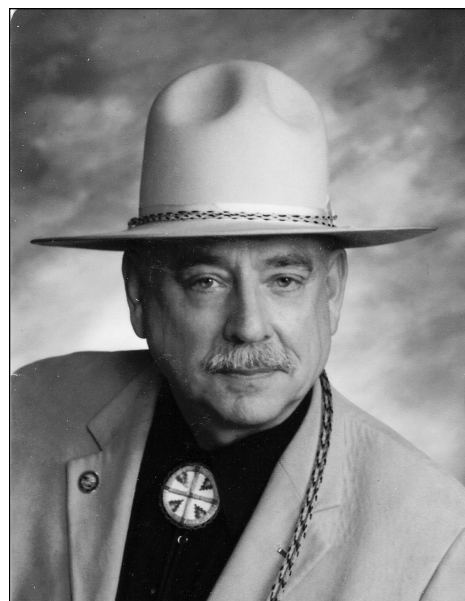
CW-4 Eldon Nygaard

By Donna Schafer
VFW Auxiliary President
Clay County Post 3061

Eldon Nygaard was born April 17, 1946 to Martin and Lavonne Nygaard. This event took place in the four bed hospital which was located on Main Street, in a two story home in Viborg, and grew up on a farm nearby.

While a sophomore at SDSU in the 1960s Eldon decided he did not want to be confused with the term "draft dodger" so he chose to enlist in March of 1965 in Sioux Falls, in the United States Army. He entered active duty in March of 1966 and on April 3, 1967 Eldon graduated from flight school at Fort Rucker, AL as an Army Aviator and was commissioned as a Warrant Officer. In September of 1967, while assigned to the 57th Avn. Company at Fort Riley, KS, WO Nygaard's unit was dispatched to Detroit Michigan. As a result Eldon flew a Huey Gunship over the city during what was known as the "Detroit Riots."

Later in September of 1967 Nygaard arrived in the Republic of Vietnam at the age of 22. His assignments there were initially with the 101st Airborne Division and later with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. During his tour of duty in Vietnam he served as: a Huey helicopter "slick" pilot (shot down



ELDON NYGAARD

once), a "scout" pilot in a OH-23 Hiller (shot down twice), a "gun ship" pilot in a UH-CM (shot down once) and as a maintenance officer and test pilot for the 3rd Squadron 11th ACR. Chief Warrant Officer Nygaard's active duty assignments included: Ft. Polk, LA, Ft. Wolters, TX, Ft. Rucker, AL, and Ft. Riley, KA.

After active duty, Chief Warrant Officer Nygaard served in the Army National Guards of: Nebraska, Wisconsin, Nevada, and Arizona. In addition, he served in the Army Reserves in Wisconsin, California and South Dakota.

Eldon Nygaard retired as a CW-4 in 2006. His awards and decorations include: Two awards of the Distinguish Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, 11 awards of the Air Medal (1 award with "v" device for valor), three awards of the Army Commendation Medal including one award with the "v" device for valor, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army National Guard Achievement Medal, National Defense Medal with Bronze Star device, Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars devices, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star.

His unit citations include: The Presidential Unit Citation, Army Valorous Unit Citation, Army Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

In 1995, CW-4 Nygaard was inducted into the South Dakota Combat Aviation Hall of Fame now located at Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Chamber Singers to perform at United Church of Christ

The University of South Dakota's acclaimed vocal ensemble, the Chamber Singers, will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, at the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main St. in Vermillion.

The program, "Make a Joyful Noise," includes classical and contemporary musical selections from the Chamber Singers' recently completed four-state tour that featured select performances in South Dakota, Iowa, Colorado and Wyoming.

There is no admission cost for the March 17 concert; however, a freewill offering will be collected.

Complementary child care will be provided at the church and copies of the Singers' most recent CD, "Nature's Witness," will also be available.

The premiere vocal ensemble at USD with 30 members, the Chamber Singers is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students selected through

auditions from the entire university student body. Its repertoire, which is primarily a cappella, includes music from the Renaissance to the present in a wide variety of styles.

The Chamber Singers have performed for state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference, and recorded several choral works for a companion record series to

music textbooks used by colleges and universities nationwide.

For more information about University Music Ensembles, visit www.usd.edu/cfa/Music/ensembles.cfm.

You can also follow the Chamber Singers on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/USD-Chamber-Singers/113297502061275.

THIS WEEK IN S.D. NATIONAL GUARD HISTORY

By CW5 Duke Doering (Ret.)
SDNG Historian

In recognition of the South Dakota National Guard's 150 years of service to the state and nation from 1862-2012, the SDNG will be publishing significant dates in the history of the organization all year long for the media's use in your publications or broadcasts.

For more information on these events, please contact the SDNG Historian, CW5 Duke Doering at (605) 737-6581, or e-mail duke.doering@us.army.mil.

On this date in SDNG history:

March 13, 1991
Iraq, Operation Desert Storm: The 730th Medical Company was sent back into Iraq on March 13 to support the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) and provide medical aid to Iraqi civilians in what became known as "Operation Care." This was their second entry into Iraq in the past month.

The 730th Medical Company's 2nd Platoon was attached in support of the 2nd ARC, and charged through the breach with them from Saudi Arabia into Iraq on Feb. 23. Traveling 70 miles on the first day, the 730th Soldiers treated five Americans and 50 Iraqi soldiers. The first and third platoons moved into Iraq the next day, with the first ACR.

After a busy and remarkable two weeks, the unit pulled out of Iraq and was sent back to Saudi Arabia on March 6. This was short-lived, however, and upon to their return for "Operation Care" the unit treated more than 1,000 civilians and 186 U.S. military personnel.

The medics also treated numerous babies and children for dehydration and illness. Many of these children lived because of the 730th medics.

Colonel R.I. Porter, commander of the 730th Medical Company said, "Be assured that every one of these people is like my own! There is not another medical unit in the country that looks and functions as well as ours."

Information from Dakota's Desert Storm, story by Lt. Col. Larry Wilcox (Ret.).

March 14, 1973

Rapid City: Two well-known South Dakota National Guard brothers were once again serving in the same unit. Capt. Clarence C. (Buzz) Knapp

transferred from the 109th Engineer Battalion, Sturgis, and reunited with his younger brother, 1st Sgt. James F. Knapp, as members of the 109th Engineer Group.

Knapp, a full-time technician, went on to have a successful career. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel as the executive officer of the 109th Engineer Group. From there, he transferred to state headquarters and was promoted to colonel as the state aviation officer. He then went to become the plans, operations, and training officer before being appointed chief of staff on Aug. 1, 1987.

Knapp was appointed assistant adjutant general and promoted to the rank of brigadier general on Sept. 9, 1991. He retired on July 28, 1992.

Younger brother Jim Knapp also enjoyed a successful career, and he was appointed to the rank of warrant officer on March 28, 1973, with duty as the 109th Engineer Group personnel officer.

When the new SIDPERS branch was formed at state headquarters, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Knapp was put in charge of that branch of automated personnel recording. As a full-time AGR Soldier, Jim Knapp built the SIDPERS system "from the ground up."

He retired on May 9, 1989.

March 15, 1918

World War 1, France: 147th Field Artillery troops at Saumur, France, were visited and inspected by the secretary of war, the Honorable Newton D. Baker and the commander-in-chief of the American Expeditionary Force, Gen. John J. Pershing.

The 147th Field Artillery had received the 75mm field guns, with limbers and caissons, as well as a sufficient number of horses. They had been put in charge of the artillery school at Saumur. Evidently, the success of this school drew the attention of the Army, which brought about the visit from these distinguished leaders.

March 16, 2008

Afghanistan, Operation Enduring Freedom: Detachment 48, Operation Support Airlift Command, located at Rapid City, was flying two specially equipped C-12R airplanes on haul missions for Task Force Charger, part of the 101st Airborne Division.

Detachment Commander Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jerry Duba stated, "A typical mission was hauling five passengers and as much cargo as we could fit in the plane."

During the 2008 deployment, the unit was primarily stationed in Afghanistan but also operated out of eight different countries in the area: Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan and

Bahrain.

The pilots' main issues were possible surface-to-air missiles, the airports had only one runway, and it was not unusual to have winds that exceeded the crosswind limitations.

The five pilots, CW5 Duba, CW4 Mike Huss, CW4 William

Groves, CW4 Wayne Walker and CW2 Jose Rodriguez received the Air Medal for their efforts.

The detachment sergeant, Ryan Williamson, and operations sergeant, Marie Geranen, were awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the staff at Sanford Vermillion Hospital and Prairie Estates Care Center for Bob's care during this difficult time. Pastor Rick for the service and prayers. Your kind thoughts are much appreciated.

Sincerely,
BOB CLARK FAMILY

RN's & LPN's Needed

Universal Pediatric Services, Inc. specializing in pediatric home health is looking for RN's and LPN's to provide quality in-home health care for a teenager in the Vermillion area. Full-time Days needed. WE OFFER: Flexible schedules; Casual, fun, working environment; One-on-one client care; Case Specific Training; Benefits.

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www.universalpediatric.com

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Wednesday, March 21st, 7pm
Vermillion Public Library

FREE to the Public

Speakers:
Liz Almlie: State Preservation Office
John Davidson: Northern Prairies Land Trust

Sponsored by
Clay County Historic Preservation Commission

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