

One in a Vermillion

Meet Robert Fickbohm

By David Lias
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A familiar face – Robert Fickbohm, a veteran of the Korean conflict – greeted people attending Monday’s Veterans Day service in Vermillion. In his role as featured speaker during the morning’s program, he diverted all of the attention, however, to his best friend and a fallen soldier, Don Johnson.

Robert was raised about 10 miles northeast of Vermillion and Don was a native of Burbank, but neither of them met before their induction into the Army on Nov. 12, 1952.

Their friendship continued from then on. And, sadly, that friendship ended way too soon.

“Don and I were together all through basic training, and we went to Japan together,” Robert said. “He was one of the best friends I ever had.”

The pair was inducted in Sioux Falls, at which point they were sent to Fort Sheridan, which is

north of Chicago.

They were then sent on a troop train to the southwestern US, eventually reaching California.

“We were in the same outfit, the same barracks, the same schedule” all through basic training, Robert said.

Eventually, the pair shipped out of San Francisco to Japan on a World War II troop ship.

After an 18-day voyage aboard the ship, they reached a camp outside of Tokyo, where they were processed.

Robert went to serve with the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon, while Don went with the 32nd Regiment.

“That’s the last I (saw) of Don Johnson,” Robert said.

The pair wrote each other letters while in Korea, until Robert received one of his own letters back with the words “Missing In Action” stamped on it.

Eventually, Robert learned Don was killed in July 1954 on Pork Chop Hill, which he said



sustained approximately 1,100 casualties between March 1 and July 27 that year.

People may learn more about Robert and his experiences during the Korean War by reading his book, “Cold Noses, Brave Hearts: Dogs and Men of the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon.”

Robert and Sandra Fickbohm Granger wrote this book to honor the

men and dogs that served with the 26th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon during World War II and Korea. Only about 180 men and maybe 90 dogs served in this small unit during this entire time period. The dogs did not get to rotate home, and served more than one master. These men and dogs were credited with saving numerous lives.

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I want to thank all of you who helped make my 90th birthday a memorable one. I was overwhelmed with the beautiful flowers I received, my mailbox overflowing with cards, and to all who attended the surprise party at Pleasant Valley Church. As I celebrate my 90th year, I wish to thank all of those, past and present, who have made my life full and enjoyable. I have been blessed by wonderful family, friends and neighbors.

Thank you
Sylvia Johnson

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and Recycle!

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Friday, November 22, 2013
1:30 PM, St. Helena Dance Hall, St. Helena, NE

255.10+/- Total Tax Acres of prime Cedar County Farmland
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Tract #1: North of St. Helena, NE
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Tract #2: Pt. NE1/4, 3-32N-1E, CCN.
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1101 Announcements - Events

BERGEN LUTHERAN Church: “The little white church on Timber Road.” Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:15 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church, 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

BRULE Creek Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am.

CHRIST OUR SAVIOR Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 102 Prosp: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service – Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School – Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham. Contact us at (605) 624-3459 or at lcmsvermillion.org

CORNERSTONE CHURCH: *A Place To Grow:* Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Service: Sunday during the School year 9:00am and 10:30am (subject to change during holidays) in the summer Sunday 10 AM. Check us out at cornerstonesd.org or call (624-8809) for further information.

DALESBURG BAPTIST Church 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Rehgr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622.

Dalesburg Lutheran Church: 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org

Elk Point Baptist Church. Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981

1101 Announcements - Events

FAITH FELLOWSHIP of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH: 401 Main Street, Makell, NE. Sunday School 9am. Worship: 10am. Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays. (605)658-0240 (home) (402)-692-3323 (church).

Faith United Lutheran Church, ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277. Sunday Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th.

FIRST BAPTIST Church Elmer “Sandy” Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m.

GAYVILLE LUTHERAN Church: Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. Pastor Ralph Egbert.

GOSPEL CHAPEL Church, 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335.

GRACE BAPTIST Church, SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m.

HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH 1800 Constance Dr. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m. AWANA Small groups; 9-10:15 Worship May-August 10a.m., 6 0 5 - 6 2 4 - 4 8 6 2 , www.hillside-cc.com Like us on Facebook!

IMMANUEL Lutheran Church, Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

KOMSTAD COVENANT Church, Rural Beresford and Centerville, SD: Matt Styles, Pastor. 18 miles north on University Road. Phone 563-2402. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m.

PLEASANT VALLEY Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion First Sunday of every month. All welcome.

PROVIDENCE REFORMED Church, 830 Madison: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. “We Welcome You To Historic Protestant Worship And Fellowship.”

ROTARY INVESTS in people to generate sustainable economic growth. For more information visit www.rotary.org. This message provided by PaperChain and your local community free paper. (MCN)

ST. AGNES Church, 416 Walker St., Fr. John Fischer: St. Agnes Church and Parish Office, tele. 624-4478. St. Agnes Rectory, 505 Catalina, tele. 624-1995. Mass schedule: 5 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30a.m. Sunday, Week-day Masses – consult weekly bulletin; Sacrament of Penance, Saturday 4-4:45p.m.

ST. PAUL’S Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Linden. Sunday: nursery available. 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. Call 624-3379 for more info.

Town Square I & II Apartments 505-507 W. Main St. Vermillion, SD 57069. 1 BR apartments for anyone 55 years of age or older, or persons with disabilities. Please call **605-624-5218** or visit www.oakleafpm.com. Utilities are included and we are pet friendly. Rental assistance available to those who qualify.

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My sincere thanks for all the beautiful cards in honor of my 90th birthday and also for the lovely flowers, gifts and telephone calls. It was a memorable day for me.

Florence Williams

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