

Honoring & Remembering:

Master Sergeant William R. Barta

By Donna Schafer
VFW Auxiliary President
Clay County Post 3061



BILL BARTA

Master Sergeant William (Bill) R. Barta was born Jan. 23, 1936, to Sylvester and Lillian Barta at their home in Lesterville during a snowstorm.

Bill enlisted in June 1954 in Vermillion, at the Clay County Courthouse. From there, he went to Sioux Falls where he was inducted.

He spent 10 weeks in basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. Then he was in Combat Engineering School, which lasted about five months when he changed to Supply School at Fort Lee Virginia for another 10 weeks.

During his time of training, Bill married his high school sweetheart, Jeanne Burton, from Meckling. They were married at the Catholic Base Chapel in October, 1954.

His unit was transferred to Fort Myer, Va., but his duty was at Arlington Hall Station. After doing supply for a while, Bill became a recreation specialist for four years.

In 1958, he was sent to Kagnew Station, Asmara, Ethiopia, as recreation supervisor for four more years. During this time, he took for his R&R 52 three-day safaris. While there, some Air Force officers came for R&R. When Bill walked into the bowling alley, Robert Armstrong, a friend from Meckling, was there with that group.

The purpose of the base in Ethiopia was satellite tracking which included Army and Navy.

Their mission was rapid relay tracking provided by the Army Security Agency. On Bill's second tour of duty in Ethiopia, they couldn't use guns on the safaris because of the unrest. The Ethiopian government forbid them to carry weapons.

Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia, would come to the base once a year. While there he would go to the bowling alley. He always had a milk shake and bowled at least one frame. Due to some fancy finagling, he always got a strike! He and his entourage would come in two large cars, stop at the Commissary and buy everything on the shelves. Nearly 10 years later, the Communists took over the base.

Bill left Ethiopia in 1966 and headed for San Francisco. He was recreation director at the

Letterman Army Hospital until 1968.

Vietnam was his next stop. They arrived in the middle of the TET Offensive. It was a very treacherous situation. They were in a commercial aircraft. It was flying at 3,500 feet and suddenly dropped to 1,500 feet and in a very short time it was on the ground. While they were landing, there was a fighter jet flying each wing for their protection. While they were exiting the aircraft, their plane was being loaded for immediate take off. In fact, that plane took off before they arrived at their staging area. We were at war!

After about four days in the staging area, Bill took a jeep to Saigon. On the way, he realized he was in his first war. While going across the bridge, he and others were caught in the cross fire of ARSN and Viet Cong. He didn't even have his weapon yet. They got to Saigon and were assigned to the First Logistical Command in Recreation Supply for half the portion of South Vietnam.

There he helped manage all the USO Shows, transportation and hotel reservations. He would fly to all the New Division Areas and lay out the area that recreation needed and the engineers would go from there.

From Vietnam, Bill flew to Oakland Army Base in 1969. He spent five years supervising the recreation programs.

In 1974, he received orders to go to Okinawa. Six months later, he came home on emergency leave because his mother was ill. He decided it was time to retire. He had served his country for 21 years.

USD to host 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Three judges from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26 in the courtroom of the University of South Dakota School of Law. The panel will consist of the Chief Judge William Jay Riley of Omaha, NE, federal Judge Roger L. Wollman of Sioux Falls, and senior Judge C. Arlen Beam of Lincoln, NE.

"Hosting the Court provides our students a remarkable opportunity to learn issues in federal law, see law in action and observe excellent appellate advocacy skills," said USD School of Law Dean Thomas E. Geu. "We are honored that the Court is able to come to USD School of Law."

Riley has been an active judge on the Court since 2001 and was named chief judge in 2010. Beam was appointed in 1987 and became a senior judge in 2001. Wollman, a 1962 graduate of USD School of Law, was appointed to the

Court in 1985 and served as chief judge from 1999 to 2002.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is a federal court with appellate jurisdiction over the U.S. District Courts in Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. It is based on St. Louis and is among 13 U.S. Courts of Appeals, just below the Supreme Court of the United States.

Cases scheduled for oral argument are *Christiansen v. West Branch Community School District*, *U.S. v. Thomas and State of South Dakota* v. *United States Department of the Interior*. A summary of the cases is available at www.usd.edu/law/upload/Cas e-Synopses.pdf. For more information about the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals visit at the University of South Dakota School of Law, please contact law@usd.edu or call (605) 677-5443.

OBITUARIES

Frances Dornon

Frances H. Dornon, 100, Sioux City, IA, died Oct 10, 2011 at a local hospital.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday Oct. 14, 2011 at First United Methodist Church in Sioux City with the Rev. Roger Madden officiating. Visitation was on Thursday, Oct. 13, at the First United Methodist Church from 5 to 7 p.m. with a prayer service starting at 7 p.m.

Frances was born Nov. 4, 1910 to Fred H. and Christina (Anderson) Olson on the family farm north of Vermillion. She attended country school through the eighth grade, she graduated from Vermillion High School in 1928. She continued her education at the University of South Dakota for one year before going to Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls, IA. She graduated with a major in elementary education and a minor in music. Frances taught school in Union, IA, for four years, then she moved to Harlan, IA, where she taught first grade for four years. In 1938 she met and married John G. Dornon, who was also a teacher at Harlan. While her children were young, she ran the Dornon Day Care Center in Harlan. Later, she returned to teaching. Frances taught in Harlan, Camanche and Sioux City before retiring from teaching after 31 years.

John and Frances moved into the North Park Retirement home in 1994. John died in 1999. Frances continued to live there on the assisted living side. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church faithfully attending every Sunday. She belonged to the Anemone Circle, the United Methodist Women's group. Frances also attended a Sunday school class held at North Park Retirement. Frances' hobbies included

studying the Bible, taking pictures and movies, music, studying genealogy and traveling. Her adventurous spirit took her to the Holy Land twice and Sweden all after she was 80 years old and alone. Frances had a great love of life and family. Survivors include her son, Dr. Robert F. Dornon and his wife Nancy of Bellevue, TX; a daughter, Mary Verdi and her husband Arthur of Lafayette, IN; a daughter-in-law, Sharon Dornon of Sioux City; eight grandchildren, Kelly & Lance Heimsoth, Kerry & Dave Drees, Greg Dornon, Garrett & Shannon Dornon, Andrew Dornon, Austin Dornon, Chris Verdi, Kirsten & Mike Goddard; eight great-grandchildren, Maci Heimsoth, Jahni Grace Heimsoth, Emma Drees, Ellie Drees, Addie Drees, Jack Goddard, Ben Goddard and Abby Goddard.

DORNON

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John G.; infant daughter; son, John R.; two sisters, Ruby Lind, Ruth Rudd; four brothers, Henry, Clifford, Harlan and Eldon Olson. A special thank you to the "Angels" at North Park Senior Living, Care Initiatives Hospice, the Rev. Roger Madden of First United Methodist Church and the staff at St. Luke's Orthopedic unit for all your kindness and care. Memorial may be directed to First United Methodist Church or Care Initiatives Hospice.

Thomas Iverson

Thomas "Tom" Michael Iverson, 58, of Meckling, passed away on Friday, Sept. 9, 2011 at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.

There will be a memorial service held on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2011 at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion at 2 p.m. with Rev. Ralph Egbert officiating. Burial of ashes will be in Evergreen Cemetery in rural Meckling following the service with military burial rites.

Fellowship will follow the burial at Bergen Lutheran Church in rural Meckling.

Tom was born on Aug. 21, 1953 in Midland, MI to Marlow and Sanna (Jepsen) Iverson. He grew up on the west coast and graduated from Simi Valley High School in California. Tom was in the Army for a few years before being honorably discharged.

He worked as a shipbuilder in Pearl Harbor for 26 years before moving to the Meckling area. He enjoyed surfing while he was living in Hawaii, and also making model cars and airplanes.

He is survived by his son, Todd Iverson of Las Vegas, NV; daughter, Mindy (Kaulana) Kanoha of HI; grandchildren, Kya and Koa Kanoha of HI; mother, Sanna M. Iverson of Vermillion; sisters, Doris Iverson of Sandy, OR and Carol Bland of Sulfur, OK; and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by father, Marlow Iverson; sister, Beth and brother Eric; maternal grandparents, Anna and Magnus Jepsen; and paternal grandparents Dora and George Iverson.

Condolences may be posted online at www.koberfuneralhome.com.

Merle Offerdahl

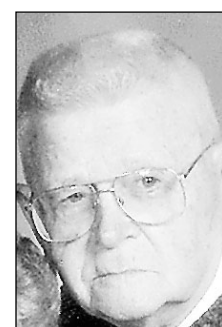
Merle Offerdahl, 92, of Vermillion, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011 at Sanford Vermillion Hospital.

He was born to Rudolph and Lillian (Davis) Offerdahl on Dec. 3, 1918 in rural Union County, SD. He lived and worked in Clay and Union counties his entire life and was proud of his rural heritage... and his Norwegian roots!

Merle was a people person and spent his entire life helping others. He was friendly, kind, compassionate and helpful. In his younger years he moved from Union County to Vermillion to work for the city garage, but was soon lured to the police department. He took a cut in pay to do that but always said it was better to work with people than with machines. He soon became the "temporary" chief of police... a position he would then hold for almost 21 years. He was proud of the relationships he was able to develop with his employees and the community as well as the growth of the department over his years as chief.

Merle was very active in his community. He was the Scoutmaster for Troop 214, served as president of his church; president of the Senior Citizen's Center and was elected to three terms as the mayor of Vermillion. He considered it a rare privilege to be able to represent the city he loved in a visit to Vermillion's sister city of Ratigen, Germany. He also later hosted representatives from Ratigen on their visit to South Dakota and proudly showed them around this area. He and his wife, Eleanor, served as Vermillion's Sesquicentennial Parade Grand Marshals and were humbled by this honor.

Merle will be remembered for his sense of humor and his stories. He often played practical jokes on unsuspecting folks and always had a joke or story to share. Every day was a good day in his mind and his positive attitude affected all who knew him. He loved to build things, fix things, and improve things... as anyone who visited his room at the Care Center will attest to. He considered himself very lucky to have met and married the love of his life, Eleanor. They shared almost 69 years of married life. They met at a dance in Union County and enjoyed dancing the rest of their lives. They also loved to camp and traveled to every state in the US and visited Europe twice.



OFFERDAHL

Merle is survived by his two children, Robert (Fran) Offerdahl of Youngstown, OH and Joyce (Dave) Zimmer of Vermillion. He leaves behind five grandchildren, Scott (Maria) Zimmer of San Diego,

CA, Nathan (Jami) Offerdahl, Lucas (Sarah) Offerdahl, Martha Offerdahl, and Ellen Duby all of Youngstown, OH, as well as nine great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death were his wife, Eleanor; his parents; his brothers, Lawrence, Milton, and Rudy; and his sister, Violet Fickbohm.

Memorials to honor his memory may be direct to the Vermillion Food Pantry, the Vermillion Senior Citizen's Center, the Vermillion Public Library Building Fund, SD Special Olympics, or to any other worthy cause.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion with Rev. Trisha Boese officiating. Burial will be in BluffView Cemetery in Vermillion. Visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21, 2011 at Kober Funeral Home in Vermillion with a prayer service to begin at 7 p.m.

Condolences may be posted online to www.koberfuneralhome.com

Please Recycle When Done Reading!

YANKTON MONUMENT CO.
Family Memorials by Gibson
AMBER WESTERGAARD

325 DOUGLAS AVENUE, YANKTON, SD 57078
OFFICE (605) 664-0980 • 1-800-658-2294
Cell (605) 610-6992 • www.gibsonmonuments.com

Pillow Cleaning
will be available in this vicinity:
Saturday, Oct. 29th 9:00 - 1:00

All Types of Bed Pillows—Feather, Foam, Down, Fiberfill, etc. Make your pillow look like new—have them Completely Renovated and NEW TICKING (Ticking is the outer fabric or material used on pillow). Do it NOW for Restful Sleep! Bring in your feather beds and have them made into new pillows. Your pillows can be Renovated and back on your bed the SAME DAY.

Mobile Unit located at:
Vermillion Odd Fellows Hall, 1224 E. Cherry St.
Sponsored by Vermillion VFW Auxiliary. For more info call Kraft
Pillow Service 712-378-2918 • Email: Pillows@frontiernet.net
ALSO AVAILABLE: New feather or down pillows.

Need **CASH?**
We want to make you a loan!
Loans \$100-\$3,000
Gentry Finance
918 E. Cherry, Vermillion **605.624.6737**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED
For Hearing/Auditory Processing Study

The USD Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is seeking children ages 7-13 years and adults 18-25 years with no history of language, learning, or hearing problems to participate in a research study focused on updating normative values for diagnostic tests of Central Auditory Processing. Participation will require two test sessions at the USD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic in Vermillion. Each session will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and can be scheduled at your convenience (including evenings and weekends). All participants will receive a free hearing test and central auditory processing evaluation. Participants also will be compensated for their participation.

To participate you must:

- Have no history of language, learning, or hearing problems.
- Have normal hearing
- Speak English as your primary language
- Be between 7-13 or 18-25 years of age

For more information, contact:

Jennie Bellis Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (605) 202-1345 • jbellis@usd.edu	Allison Root Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (775) 313-4449 • Allison.Root@usd.edu
--	---

Teri James Bellis, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA, F-ASHA
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
The University of South Dakota
(605) 677-5474 • tbellis@usd.edu

Newcastle Fire & Rescue
Annual All-U-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast

Serving Pancakes – Sausage – Eggs

Sunday, Oct. 23rd 7am-1pm
Newcastle Fire Hall
Free Will Donations Accepted

the Kitchen Place

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Office & more

309 W. 11th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
800-249-3837 • 605-668-2168
www.tkplaceyankton.com

SHOWPLACE Wood Products

CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS NEEDED
For Hearing/Auditory Processing Study

The USD Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is seeking children ages 7-13 years and adults 18-25 years with no history of language, learning, or hearing problems to participate in a research study focused on updating normative values for diagnostic tests of Central Auditory Processing. Participation will require two test sessions at the USD Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic in Vermillion. Each session will take approximately 1.5 to 2 hours and can be scheduled at your convenience (including evenings and weekends). All participants will receive a free hearing test and central auditory processing evaluation. Participants also will be compensated for their participation.

To participate you must:

- Have no history of language, learning, or hearing problems.
- Have normal hearing
- Speak English as your primary language
- Be between 7-13 or 18-25 years of age

For more information, contact:

Jennie Bellis Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (605) 202-1345 • jbellis@usd.edu	Allison Root Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders The University of South Dakota (775) 313-4449 • Allison.Root@usd.edu
--	---

Teri James Bellis, Ph.D., CCC-A, FAAA, F-ASHA
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
The University of South Dakota
(605) 677-5474 • tbellis@usd.edu