

## **Elroy Herbel – BS 1960 Pharmacy**

Elroy Herbel, Sr., 89, passed away Nov. 5, 2021, at his Bismarck home. Funeral services will be held 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 12 at Bismarck Funeral Home. For those not attending, the service will be livestreamed on the Bismarck Funeral Home Facebook page. Visitation will be held Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Bismarck Funeral Home.

Elroy Herbel was born Dec. 20, 1931, to Reinhart and Mary (Klein) Herbel, in Alsen. Elroy was raised in Alsen, and he was the middle child in a family with 11 children. Elroy's family was poor, and he and his 10 siblings grew up in a two-bedroom house in the country. The Herbel family was tremendously hardworking and the Herbel household was full of love and respect. That atmosphere fueled a successful and proud generation of Herbels.

Elroy attended school in Alsen until the school burned down when he was in 10th grade. At that point, Elroy began attending Munich High School, where he graduated in 1949. Following high school, Elroy taught in a one-room rural school in Walhalla, attended Minot State College, and then taught in Wales. Elroy sent home his meager earnings from teaching, so that his parents could better provide for his younger siblings.

In June of 1952, Elroy joined the Air Force, where he got his first exposure to the medical profession.

After starting out in San Antonio, Texas, Elroy moved on to Moses Lake, Washington, before being transferred to an Interceptor Station in Thule, Greenland, where he served as a medic during the Korean War. Elroy finished up his service in Lincoln, Nebraska, before being honorably discharged from the Air Force in 1956.

Following his military service, Elroy commenced his studies in Pharmacy at the North Dakota Agricultural College (NDAC) in 1956. Elroy proudly graduated from NDAC in 1960 with his pharmacy degree, just months before the school changed its name to North Dakota State University.

After college, Elroy moved to LaMoure and worked in a pharmacy there for one year. In LaMoure, Elroy met Jo Hanson, an elementary teacher who was originally from LaMoure. On June 11, 1961, Elroy married Jo.

In 1961, Elroy and Jo moved to Leavenworth, Kansas, where Elroy worked as a pharmacist for the Veteran's Administration. Elroy and Jo lived in Kansas for four years before returning to North Dakota in 1965.

In 1965, Elroy and Jo purchased Economy Drug Store, a Rexall drugstore in Elgin. Elroy and Jo owned and operated Economy Drug Store for 34 years, until they sold the store in 1999. Elroy was in the drugstore every day and he would routinely open the

drugstore on weekends and after hours so that people could get the medicine they needed to get better. It did not matter what hour of the night, when Elroy got the call, he would drive to his drugstore, open the store for a single prescription, and then close the store again and go home. Elroy had a soft spot in his heart for kids and he could not bear the thought of a child going without the medicine they needed, or even having to wait to receive the medicine. Elroy's kindness and compassion was always present.

In 1998, Elroy was honored to receive the Bowl of Hygeia Award. The award is presently annually to a pharmacist with a distinguished record of community participation and service. The award has become recognized as one of pharmacy's most prestigious awards and it is presented to those who have distinguished themselves and brought honor to the profession of pharmacy through their activities and good works in their home communities. Elroy fully retired from the profession of pharmacy in 1999, after 39 years of practice.

In more than one-half century in Elgin, Elroy was very active in the community and within his church. Elroy was a community leader on issues of rural economic development, rural healthcare, fundraising, and helping war veterans.

On Feb. 14, 2008, Elroy's heart was broken when his valentine, Jo, passed away at the age of 71, after 47 years of marriage. Although Elroy was never quite the same after Jo's passing, he carried on as a loving and supportive Dad and grandfather for years.

Elroy is survived by four children: son, Alan (and Laurie) Herbel, Bismarck; daughter, Margo McCormick, Bismarck; son, Dan (and Lindsey), Bismarck; daughter, Dori Weikum, Elgin; three sisters; three brothers; one sister-in-law; one brother-in-law; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Elroy is preceded in death by his wife, Jo, his parents, three brothers, and one sister.