

Vernon Wagner – BS 1949 Pharmacy

The Honorable Vernon E. Wagner, 89, Bismarck, passed away on May 31, 2016, at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, Bismarck. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, June 3, at Zion Lutheran Church, 413 E. Ave. D, Bismarck, with the Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. officiating. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Bismarck.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck.

Vernon was born at Golden Valley to Alex R. & Kate (Miller) Wagner on June 13, 1926. He went to school in Halliday and Golden Valley and graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in pharmacy in 1948. Vernon was employed by Service Drug until 1954 and became the managing partner at the Clinic Pharmacy until 1967. He then went to work for the North Dakota Medical Association and retired as the executive director in 1994.

Vernon was very passionate about serving in his community. He served as a board member, president, or chairman for the Bismarck Jaycees, North Dakota Jaycees, North Dakota Heart Association, North Dakota Pharmaceutical Association, North Dakota Easter Seal Society, Bismarck Chamber of Commerce, North Dakota Community Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Heartview Foundation and the Protection & Advocacy Project.

In the political arena, Vernon served as the North Dakota Republican Party Secretary, served in the House of Representatives for 20 years, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee for three sessions, Speaker of the House, and the Chairman of the Legislators Compensation Commission. Additionally, he served on staff for Gov. Ed Schafer and Senate members.

As a family man, he was the best! He was always willing to give guidance, love and support. His motto was "I will live until I die" and that he did.

Vernon is survived by his son, Chris (Kelly) Wagner; his grandchildren, Caitlin Wagner and Leah (Sam) Melquist; and his great-grandchildren, Charlie, Oliver and Kadyynn Melquist and and Leslie "Vern's Girl" Gaska.

Vernon was preceded in death by his three brothers, Roland, Norman and Robert; and his parents.

Honorary pallbearers will be his closest friends that he has maintained over many years: the Krolls Krew (a.k.a. the Doublewood Lottery Pool), the Minerva's Marauders, and the Gin Rummy Gang, to mention a few.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Vernon E. Wagner Endowment (memo line), UND Foundation, 3501 University Ave. Stop 8157, Grand Forks, N.D. 58012-8157 or the Zion Lutheran Foundation, 413 E. Ave. D, Bismarck, N.D. 58501.

The family of Vernon E. Wagner wishes to extend our sincere thanks to the staff on Third floor Telemetry CHI St. Alexius Health and our new friends at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center.

Go to www.parkwayfuneral.com to share memories of Vernon and sign the online guest book.