



# The Alpha Gamma Fellowship

## for Lambda Chi Alpha Alpha Gamma Zeta Alumni Association

Volume 5 | Issue 1

Summer 2022

### The "Home Away From Home" campaign begins!

After a very successful silent phase of our fraternity's fundraising efforts to build a new chapter house at 327 North Pine Street, the Alumni Council is proud to announce the start of the public phase of our campaign to build a "Home Away From Home!"

In under ten months, with the professional help of Constellation Fundraising followed by Lambda Chi Alpha National Fraternity and the leadership of our own brother Nick Bratvold (ΑΓ 1881), we raised \$2.3 million from only 82 donors. This is well over half of our goal of \$3.25 million, and marks the start of the public phase of our fundraising.

Campaign co-chairs Jim Abbott, Dennis Daugaard, and Mark Mickelson have lent their time, treasure, talent and influence to help spread the word and encourage brothers to build a future for the next century of Lambda Chi Alpha at USD.

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### Last D-Days at the Brown House

This fall will be our last chance to celebrate D-Days at the Brown House! With the latest milestone of fundraising reached, demolition has been set for May 2023 (actual date TBD). Construction of the new house will begin soon after.

We are planning another robust schedule of Dakota Days events, October 20-23. Reunions include the Classes of '72, '82, '92, '02, and '12! A Welcome Back Party is planned for Thursday, October 20, from 3 to 6pm at Jim Abbott & Debby Vander Woude's home in Sioux Falls.

Weather permitting, another best ball golf scramble will be held on Friday, October 21, at the Bluffs Golf Course, followed by all the usual Dakota Days events as detailed on Page 4: parade, house luncheon, football game, Buffalo Run Winery reception, and Sunday Hail and Breakfast.



*Editorial*

*Alumni Association*

*Director*

*Logan Lamphere*

*ΑΓ 1596*



## It's really happening!

Dear Brother,

After five years of studies, consultations, planning, discussions and debates, we have all systems GO for building our new chapter house.

Some brothers didn't think it would happen. Some said we didn't need a new house and some said we don't need a house at all. Some said they couldn't put another dime into the old structure and would only contribute to a new facility.

Others thought we could never raise the needed money in such a short time period, but others knew that some of you would step up to the plate. Some of you have really hit it out of the park with your careers and have equally paid it forward to the next generation. Some of you have passed away before seeing it completed, and some of you have young sons hoping to join when they go to college.

This Dakota Days will be our last in the Brown House at 327 North Pine. We plan to have a ground breaking in May 2023 with one more chance to say goodbye to it, but I think fall in Vermillion is when our house looks the best and feels right.

I was in the group that had hoped to save the old structure and renovate (it was a very small group). I love old buildings and so many of my memories and ties with other brothers relate to the actual building. Second floor, second room on the right; third floor, second room on the left, and finally third floor, first room on the right. We can all picture those places.

But you know what? For our first twenty years, our brothers lived someplace else. We didn't move to 327 N. Pine until 1937 and we had already been a chapter since 1916, and we obviously survived and thrived after that transition.

So we will with this change as we move forward into our second century at USD. And we still have the chance of getting acquainted with our new chapter house! In fact, we'll be inviting back brothers to live in the new house for reunions in the summers following completion, getting to know the new place and making new memories and connections with our future brothers.

Be part of Lambda Chi Alpha history during this pivotal year as we pass the flame to a new generation!

Yours in ZAX, Logan Lamphere ΑΓ 1596

## Dakota Days 2022, October 20-23, 2022

To register for Dakota Days events, please visit [app.mobilecause.com/e/KMET6Q?vid=rxy0e](http://app.mobilecause.com/e/KMET6Q?vid=rxy0e).

### Thursday, October 20

3:00PM – 6:00PM: AXA Dakota Days Welcome Back Party  
Home of Jim Abbott & Debby Vander Woude  
16 Twin Oaks Est  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105

### Friday, October 21

8:00AM – 5:00PM: USD Alumni Association Events [usdalumni.com/events](http://usdalumni.com/events)  
11:00 – 2:00PM: Bluffs Golf Course 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Weapons of Grass Destruction Best Ball Scramble  
For more information, please contact: Bryan Bennett, Email: [bsbenn48@comcast.net](mailto:bsbenn48@comcast.net), Mobile: (720) 448-6228; or Bob Murphy, Email: [frozeninfargo@gmail.com](mailto:frozeninfargo@gmail.com), Mobile: (612) 508-5857  
2:00PM – 5:00PM: Olde Lumber Company Grill – Meet & Greet - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Patio (Cash Bar)  
5:30PM – 8:00PM: USD Unleash Your Legacy Alumni (complimentary hors d'oeuvres )  
8:00PM – 11:00PM: After Hours Social @ 327 North Pine

### Saturday, October 22

8:30AM – 9:00AM: Parade Reception Front Lawn of President's Home  
9:00AM – 10:30AM: USD 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Dakota Days Parade  
10:30AM – 12:00PM: Brunch @ 327 North Pine (Pizza Ranch)  
10:30AM – 10:45AM: Alpha Gamma Zeta House Corporation Meeting  
10:45AM – 11:00AM: High Pi Alumni Advisor Report  
11:00AM – 12:00PM: Nick Bratvold Presentation - Campaign Fundraising  
12:00PM – 2:00PM: Coyote Nation Tailgate Party Outside Dakota Dome  
2:00PM – 5:00PM: Dakota Day Football Game – Southern Illinois vs USD  
3:00PM – 3:30PM: Halftime Social @ CorTrust Club Suite (Cash Bar)  
2:00PM – 5:00PM: Meet & Greet Wine Tours - Valiant Vineyards Winery  
5:00PM - 6:00PM: Sunset Wine Tasting – Valiant Vineyards (Cash Bar)  
6:00PM – 9:00PM: AXA Buffet Dinner – Valiant Vineyards Winery

### Sunday, October 23

9:00AM – 12:00PM: Hail & Farewell Breakfast @ 327 North Pine

As always, brother Tom “Frog” Froning has reserved a block of rooms at the Prairie Inn. Contact him at [froning9@aol.com](mailto:froning9@aol.com) or (701) 261-7879. Other options include the Kelly Inn Yankton and the Hotel on Phillips, Sioux Falls.

## Mesa winter reunion held



Alumni wintering in Arizona enjoyed a reunion of brothers from all eras in Mesa in March. While a number of alumni live in the Phoenix area, many more have ventured down over the years for some sun and golf. The turnout was great this year, and we hope to continue this annual event. The evening included a cocktail hour, dinner, live music, and an update on the campaign to rebuild our home at 327 North Pine.



*Jim Mundt (AF 525) with High Rho Seth Knoer (AF 1991) at the Mesa, Arizona Reunion.*



*Dave Gardner (AF 938) and Rich Hinseth (AF 995)*

## Great turnout for Founders Day 2022

On April 15 the Alumni Council held Founders

Day at the Country Club of Sioux Falls. Over 80 alumni and spouses attended with great repre-



*Founders Day 2022 had a great turnout in Sioux Falls, April 15. Several families gave histories and testimonies of their time with Lambda Chi Alpha*

sentation from all eras, including Actives who were home for the Easter weekend.

Nick Bratvold (ΑΓ 1881) announced that fundraising efforts to build a new house at 327 North Pine Street are ahead of schedule, raising over \$2 million from just 78 donors in less than ten months! (For reference, it took the Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter about ten years to raise that much for the new house they completed last year.) Alumni Council members were recognized for their ongoing commitment.

The group heard from prominent families from past eras including Active members. Tyler Tordsen (ΑΓ 1863) spoke about what Lambda Chi meant to him and his family, including father Troy Tordsen (ΑΓ 1876), who was an honorary initiate and S.D. School of Mines Lambda Chi chapter adviser, and brother Quinton (ΑΓ 1974), who is currently attending USD. Tyler pledged that both of his sons would someday become USD Lambda Chi's—we won't hold him to it, but hope they do!

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*Scott Heidepriem (ΑΓ 1018) passed around a photo of the 1916 Founding Fathers of Alpha Gamma Zeta, including his grandfather Eric Heidepriem (ΑΓ 21)*

## Founders Day 2022, continued

Scott Heidepriem (ΑΓ 1018) whose grandfather Eric Heidepriem (ΑΓ 21) was a founding father of our Alpha Gamma Chapter in 1916 spoke next. Scott told several fascinating stories, including how Eric travelled by train from Custer to Vermillion to attend USD. Scott's father Herbert (ΑΓ 274) later joined in 1941. We then heard from Scott's son Pete, who, although did not attend USD, still initiated Lambda Chi at Arizona State.

Mark Mickelson (ΑΓ 1337) then spoke to our assembly, laying out the complex network of Mickelsons, past and present, along with several brothers-in-law and spouses who were Crescents. Lambda Chi Alpha, the University of South Dakota, and the entire state of South Dakota would certainly not be what it is without the legacy of the Mickelson family.



Indeed, for one-sixth of South Dakota history, a Lambda Chi has been governor, including former governor and campaign co-chairman

Dennis Daugaard (ΑΓ 917) who was also in

*Max Mickelson (ΑΓ 1986) spoke while his uncle Mark Mickelson (ΑΓ 1337) and Nick Bratvold (ΑΓ 1881) listen.*



*Alumni at Founders Day 2022*

attendance.

We also heard from Mark's nephew Max Mickelson (ΑΓ 1986), who became a brother of our bond with the Fall 2021 rush class. Max, who is a political science and economics double major, talked about rushing every fraternity at USD and why he chose Lambda Chi. Even though his family legacy was obviously a factor, he said that it was ultimately the fellow Active brothers who were the deciding factor.

Max then proceeded to present a list of issues the actives are currently experiencing with the physical structure in Vermillion, which included mold in the basement, rotting window sills, poor Wi-Fi, a crumbling rear staircase, failing electrical outlets, low water pressure and boiler troubles making the case for a new building.

Nick Bratvold concluded the evening with personal testimony of what Lambda Chi meant to him, along with an ask for assistance as we begin the public phase of our "Home Away From Home" campaign to rebuild our chapter house at 327 North Pine Street, paving the way for another century of building men of character, service and success.



## Representative Kevin Brady (AF 999) retires; named Texan of the year

Brother Kevin Brady (AF 999) has been serving as U.S. Representative for the 8th Congressional District in Texas since 1997. The district encompasses The Woodlands and the northwestern suburbs of Houston.

Born in Vermillion, Brady was a 1973 graduate of Rapid City Central High School and went on to get a mass communications degree from USD. He worked at the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce before being elected to the Rapid City Common Council at age 26. He moved to Texas in 1982 to work at the Beaumont Chamber, and served in the Texas Legislature from 1991 to 1997.

After announcing in April 2021 that he would retire at the end of his term, the Republican was recently honored by being named “2022 Texan of the Year” by the non-partisan Texas Legislative Conference. Below is part of the press release.

**Conroe, TX** - U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady (TX-08) has been named the 2022 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference, the well-known annual statewide policy and business forum marking its 56th year. Congressman Brady was recognized for his tireless efforts as a national economic leader and his historic work as only the third Texan in history to chair the House Ways and Means Committee.

Rep. Brady accepted the honor during the 56th annual Texas Legislative Conference hosted by the New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce.

“Thank you very much for this wonderful honor... After 26 years, I leave Congress the same way I entered – optimistic,” said Congressman Brady. “I am proud of the work done by the Ways and Means Committee. We redesigned the tax code for growth. Millions of Americans

could see opportunity they hadn’t seen before. Businesses could grow, creating millions of jobs, and increasing wages for millions of Americans.”

In accepting this honor, Congressman Brady joined an array of prominent past honorees including presidents, U.S. senators, governors and other Texas legends—several of whom he has had the privilege of calling friends and mentors.

The Texas Legislative Conference is a non-partisan organization of Texas business and political leaders who meet annually in New Braunfels to focus on public policy issues.



*Terry “Sput” Schmidt (AF 984) visits Representative Kevin Brady (AF 999) in Washington, D.C., in this undated photo*

## Tordsen runs for state House

Tyler Tordsen (ΑΓ 1863) is following in the tradition of many USD Lambda Chi's by participating in the democratic process, running for higher office. Tordsen won his Republican primary race (June 7) for the South Dakota House District 14, which is southeastern Sioux Falls.

Tordsen is currently the Southeast Regional Director and State Director of Tribal Affairs for United States Senator Mike Rounds.

Originally from Rapid City, he is an enrolled member of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe.

Before moving back to Sioux Falls in April of 2017, Tyler spent two years serving as a Special



Assistant to Senator Rounds in his Pierre office working on constituent services focusing on outreach and specializing in tribal relations and local governments.

He and his wife Erika have two sons, Emmett and Atlas. He is also our High Pi (chapter advisor) at USD. To learn more, visit

## Black Hills Reunion June 30

If you're in the Black Hills on Thursday, June 30, join us any time between 5 and 7pm (Mountain Time!) at the Valley Sports Bar at 1865 S. Valley Dr. in Rapid City.

## Kevin Brady retirement reception at Congressional Baseball Game, July 28

Brad Gullickson (ΑΓ 996) will be holding a retirement reception party for Representative Kevin Brady during the Congressional Baseball Game in Washington, D.C., on July 28. For details, contact Brad at [eganbluejay@hotmail.com](mailto:eganbluejay@hotmail.com) or 605-351-4271.

## Class of 2016 era to hold Vermillion Reunion August 4-7

Brothers from the Class of 2016 era are gathering in Vermillion for a last hurrah in the Brown House August 4-7 this summer. Contact Nick Bratvold for more info at [nicholasrbratvold@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasrbratvold@gmail.com) or 605-553-4497.

## 1974 Pledge Class Reunion: August 20, Sioux Falls

The Pledge Class of 1978 (before we had Associate Members!) will be holding a reunion at Kevin Horner's (ΑΓ 1026) home in Sioux Falls on August 20. You can contact him at [khorn2407@gmail.com](mailto:khorn2407@gmail.com) or 605-261-0256 to get the details.

## Class of '83 to hold Summer Reunion in the Black Hills

The Class of 1983 will hold a reunion in the Black Hills at Scott Stern's (ΑΓ 1178) cabin. Clark Hurrell (ΑΓ 1191) is organizing the event. To learn more, contact Clark at [clark.hurrell@gmail.com](mailto:clark.hurrell@gmail.com) or 314-323-7429. at [Scottstern926@gmail.com](mailto:Scottstern926@gmail.com) or 605-661-5838.



## USD's first Native American fraternity man—follow-up

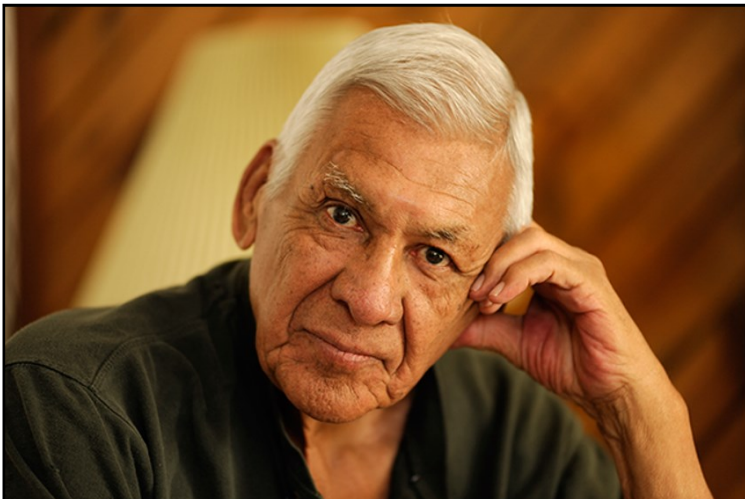
There were some great responses to last winter's article on brother John H. Artichoker, Jr. (AG 476) from Mission, South Dakota, who we believed had initiated as the first Native American fraternity man at the University of South Dakota.

Richard Colwell (AG 431), who was High Alpha at the time (!), responded to the story.

"Your news letter with mention of John A brought back memories of a success at 327," wrote Colwell.

"I was high alpha at the time and the main office turned down more than once to initiate JA. I had lots of house support and we elected to initiate him anyhow even though he was not Caucasian. My final letter requested that the national office treat him as a full-fledged brother which they eventually did but as I recall it was after John was employed by the bureau of Indian affairs. I'm sure the issue was over Blacks but I don't think we ever discussed that in a chapter meeting.

"We, as a chapter, were never told to find a



*John H. Artichoker, Jr., AF 476, (1930—2013)  
Photo: [chanteetan.com/maillist\\_controler/11012014.html](http://chanteetan.com/maillist_controler/11012014.html)*

token native American. Ann [Grauvogl], author of "150 Years of Pride, Persistence and Progress" is probably correct that a member of the chapter invited John to Rush Week. I might guess that member would have been Bob Berry whose father was SD representative for "west river." Bob ended up with a career in DC. A second possibility could be that of our house manager at the time as he was an aggressive recruiter. We all looked for top candidates to go through rush. After my correspondence with national, I suppose it is possible that we forged Caucasian on the application but that would have been caught due to the many contacts we had attempted to get advance approval."

After a few other conversations, we realized that General Lloyd Moses was in fact the first Native American fraternity man at USD. Moses was born in 1904 in Fairfax, South Dakota, but spent his childhood in the surroundings of the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation, according to the South Dakota Hall of Fame, to which he was an inductee in 1978.

"His parents, James H. Moses (Welsh) and Alice O. Sheldon (Welsh and Sioux), were early settlers in Mellette County and entered into ranching and the building trade."

The Hall of Fame continues, "Although he attended a government Indian school and the first county public school in the area, much of his elementary schooling was accomplished at home. He attended high school at Colome, seventy miles from his home. He entered the University of South Dakota on a scholarship in 1927, graduating in 1931 and was commissioned in the Army Reserve Corps."

What perhaps was different about Moses compared to Artichoker was that Moses did not  
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## USD's first Native American fraternity man—follow-up (continued)

graduate from high school on a reservation and did not become an enrolled tribal member until 1963. At that time, he was given the name Tokahe Waste Wicasha (Chief Good Leader). Moses considered this one of his most cherished honors.



*General Lloyd Roosevelt Moses, AF 152, (1904-2000)*

General Moses lived in Vermillion in his retirement, and many of you may remember his visits to the fraternity house on special occasions. He died August 27, 2000.

You can learn more about General Moses at [sdexcellence.org/Gen.\\_Lloyd\\_Moses\\_1978](http://sdexcellence.org/Gen._Lloyd_Moses_1978).

## Website relaunched

Brothers Nick Bratvold (AF 1881), Randy Sorensen (AF 989) and Logan Lamphere (AF 1596) have revamped our website. It now includes information for prospective members, our history, events, past newsletters and everything there is to know about the "Home Away From Home" campaign to rebuild the chapter house in Vermillion.

Visit it at [LambdaChiAlphaAtUSD.org](http://LambdaChiAlphaAtUSD.org).

## Lost Brothers: 1990s

If you know the whereabouts of these brothers, please let Logan Lamphere know at [alphagamamazetaaa@gmail.com](mailto:alphagamamazetaaa@gmail.com) or 605-490-0732. We currently do not have email or a physical addresses for them. Also, please let me know about any deceased brothers, as I would like to reprint their obituaries here.

AF #	First Name	Last Name	Initiation Year
1,478	Jeremie	Slagle	1990
1,482	Daryl	Isburg	1990
1,483	Jason	List	1990
1,485	Jonathan	Pickard	
1,489	Dan	Henderson	1990
1,490	Brian	Steele	1990
1,499	Rick	Landon	1991
1,503	James	Posely	1991
1,506	Brian	Gale	1991
1,507	Chris	Vandebosc	1991
1,527	Wayne	Koop	1991
1,532	Patrick	Perdaems	1991
1,547	John	Smith	1992
1,555	Josh	Youngman	1992
1,557	Robbie	Thompson	1992
1,565	Michael	Dreyer	1993
1,566	Chad	Nelson	1993
1,568	Thomas	Tidball	1993
1,574	Christopher	Lehr	1993
1,592	Aaron	London	1994
1,614	Damon	Fuger	1994
1,629	Dylan	Hovrud	1995
1,632	Jason	Rounds	1995
1,638	Nicholas	Antonie	1995
1,645	Derick	Haffeman	1996
1,648	Bryan	Blinsmon	1996
1,656	Jesse	Schuurmans	1996
1,671	Jeremiah	Williams	1997
1,674	Shawn	Andersen	1997
1,685	Justin	Koball	1997
1,691	Thomas	White	1997
1,702	Michael	Stark	1998
1,703	Adam	Kaskie	1998
1,708	Mark	Nygaard	1998
1,714	Steven	Wagner	1998

## Sioux Falls “Bored” meetings

Brother Nick Magera (ΑΓ 1269) continues to organize monthly “Bored Meetings” (happy hours) for Sioux Falls area alumni. If you happen to be in town, join them! They get a nice mix of Brothers from different eras.

The informal event rotates around to different Sioux Falls establishments on the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

You can email Nick at [magera@sio.midco.net](mailto:magera@sio.midco.net) to get on his mailing list.

The remaining 2022 Sioux Falls “Bored” Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates, with locations to be announced:

- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7



## So is it Lambda or Lambda Chi?

As an older alumni, you may have noticed (with concern) younger alumni and actives referring to themselves as “Lambdas,” rather than “Lambda Chi’s”.

This has been a trend at our chapter for about the last eight years or so. After inquiring with a few brothers who work at the National office, it apparently is a trend nationwide. While your author is not fully onboard with this additional nomenclature, tolerance is growing for a name that recalls the chapter of *Revenge of the Nerds* fame.

The next time you read an article from the *Alpha Gamma News* or visit with an Active, don’t be surprised to hear the omission of the Chi from Lambda Chi...

## Refer prospective members

Do you have a son, nephew, brother or neighbor that is going to USD? Would they be a good Lambda Chi? Let High Pi Tyler Tordsen know at [tyler.tordsen@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.tordsen@gmail.com) and High Delta Riley Riggs at [riley.riggs@coyotes.usd.edu](mailto:riley.riggs@coyotes.usd.edu).

What are we looking for in a prospective member? According to our national fraternity, we look for men with:

- scholastic aptitude
- leadership potential
- strength of character
- dedication to service

At USD, we have always added in friendliness and sociability; is this someone we would want to live with in the house? Are they a “good guy”?

There is also a way to refer prospective members online, even at other colleges and universities: [www.lambdachi.org/refer-a-brother/](http://www.lambdachi.org/refer-a-brother/).

Furthermore, according to the National Fraternity, “Letters of recommendation submitted to the Chapter by an alumnus on behalf of a prospective member should be courteously acknowledged by the recruitment chairman. It is then the responsibility of the recruitment chairman to notify the alumnus of the outcome of the recruitment period.”



## Join our LinkedIn group

Are you looking for a new job? Perhaps your company is facing the infamous labor shortage affecting the country. Connect with Lambda Chi’s from USD on LinkedIn!

We have a group on LinkedIn, the business networking site, just for Lambda Chi’s from USD. This could be a good way to find that new job or fill that open position!

To join, go to: [linkedin.com/groups/6629299/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6629299/).

## Restaurateur Barry Putzke has three businesses in downtown Sioux Falls; featured on “Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives”

Restaurateur Barry Putzke (AG 1687) owns [Bread & Circus Sandwich Kitchen](#) in Sioux Falls, and was on the “Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives” TV show on the Food Network in January 2020. The popular restaurant at 600 N. Main Ave. in downtown Sioux Falls opened in 2017 and is located in a repurposed old brick building.

“It was definitely a big boost and a lot folks came in afterwards, although it’s hard to measure the total impact [of being on the show], explained Putzke. “Some travelers come just because of the show.”



*Barry Putzke and his business partner Jordan Taylor (Photo by Erin Bormett, Argus Leader)*

Putzke spent time on the West Coast in Portland, Oregon, where he met his business partner Jordan Taylor. The menu is inspired by Jordan’s Japanese heritage, along with other West Coast fusion influences. While Taylor manages the back of the house, Putzke manages the front.

The original location they chose was delayed, so a realtor friend showed them their current location in downtown.

“It was exactly what we wanted,” said Putzke. “Being part of the downtown community has been great. It’s a small tightknit community and we help each other out. Tourism shoots up in the summer, and people stay downtown to dine and shop. There are six cranes outside our front door. In the next five years it will be on a whole other level.”

In addition to Bread & Circus, Putzke also owns [Pizza Cheeks](#) at 120 South Phillips Avenue. “Some friends opened the Hello Hi bar which had room for a kitchen, so we created Pizza Cheeks. It’s a window in the back of the bar, and we serve mostly by the slice.”



*Bread & Circus Sandwich Kitchen at 600 N. Main Ave. in downtown Sioux Falls (Photo by Logan Lamphere)*

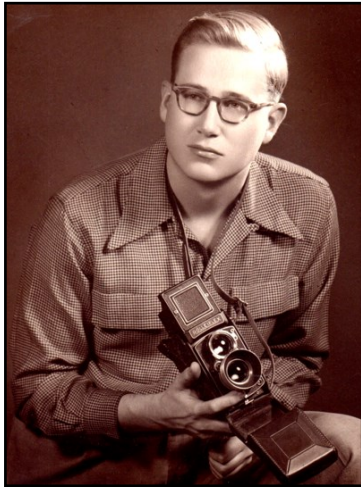


*Pizza chef Michael Charpentier, Taylor, and Putzke at Pizza Cheeks (Photo by Dawn Geertsema, 605 Magazine)*

Putzke also opened up a catering kitchen called [En Place](#), and is still looking for other opportunities, putting his 2001 USD business management degree to good use!

*Omega*

*Marshall Miller, Sr.,  
AG 394*



**Marshall C. Miller Sr.**, 93, a third-generation professional photographer and longtime Pierre businessman, died on Nov. 26, 2020, in the Monument Health Hospice House in Rapid City.

In 2018, Marshall and his wife Merrie – married for 67 years – moved from Pierre to the Peaceful Pines Independent Living community. He passed away after being injured in a fall at home. Funeral arrangements and interment are pending.

Marshall was born March 17, 1927, in Pierre to Richard and Inez Miller. After Inez passed away in 1928 Richard married Grace Bunch in 1930, who raised Marshall and his sister Dixie. He lived in Pierre for more than 90 years where he was active in community and church activities. He graduated from Pierre Senior High School in 1945, then served in the U.S Army until 1947. Marshall liked to quip that Germany surrendered shortly after he enlisted.

Marshall attended the University of South Dakota for two years and was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He graduated from the Progressive School of Photography in New Haven, Conn., before joining Millers Studio, the business started by his father on Pierre's downtown main street. After Richard's retirement, Marshall owned and operated the business until his retirement in 1995.

Marshall was a South Dakota Professional Photographers' Association board member from 1960 to 1965 and served as the organization's president from 1965 to 1966. His portraits won numerous awards in SDPPA competitions.

During his years as a photographer, he recorded many historic events in South Dakota's capital city, such as the great Missouri River flood of 1952, the construction of the Oahe Dam and President John F. Kennedy's dedication of the dam in 1962. Nearly every legislative session, Millers Studio took photos of legislators to create a large composite of its members.

Marshall took family pictures, senior portraits and wedding photos for generations of residents in Pierre and the surrounding area. Budding and serious photographers alike sought his advice on purchasing cameras and equipment.

Although Marshall's father once predicted that color photography would never catch on, Millers Studio introduced 24-hour color film processing to the town during the 1960s – a service usually found only in large cities.

Marshall married high school teacher Merrie Swanson on June 29, 1953, in Highmore, S.D. Merrie was initially attracted by his good looks and sense of humor. But after observing him photograph a family in the studio and seeing how good he was with children, she decided he was the man for her. They raised three children and took very seriously the "til death do us part" meaning of their wedding vows.

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Marshall inherited his father's passion for music and was an avid saxophonist, performing in an Army swing band, marching in the Pierre Kilties band and playing in the Pierre City Band throughout the 1960s and 70s.

At the time Marshall left Pierre, he was the oldest member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, the church in which he was baptized and raised. He was a fixture in the church choir for more than six decades, singing tenor and pulling pranks on choir members.

As a businessman, Marshall served as a Chamber of Commerce board member and committee chair. For several decades, he was a regular member of the Pierre-Fort Pierre Rotary Club and served as music director during weekly meetings. He was a past president of the organization and was recognized as Outstanding Young Rotarian, Rotarian of the Year and as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Marshall is survived by his wife Merrie, Rapid City, S.D.; sister Marilyn Hale, Omaha, Neb.; brother Richard (Arlene) Miller., Pierre, S.D.; son Marshall (Audrey) Miller, Piedmont, S.D.; son Patrick (Joan) Miller, Grand Forks, N.D.; daughter Merrilee Miller (Shelly Blank), Rapid City, S.D.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father Richard and stepmother Grace, and his sisters Dixie Cannon of Fort Dodge, Iowa, and Sandra Miller of Rapid City.

Published by *Capital Journal*, Nov. 30, 2020.

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*Omega*

*Donald Nelson,  
AG 304*



**NELSON, Donald Eugene**, passed away peacefully on Thursday, the second day of December, 2021 at his home in Manakin-Sabot, Va.

"Don," as he was known to family and friends, was born in Wakonda, S.D. on January 4, 1923. Don was a loving, devoted husband and father. He was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Virginia. He raised four children and taught them the value of hard work, education, love, laughter and devotion to family. Don was a World War II veteran and the recipient of the Bronze Star for his heroic service in North Africa and Italy. He retired from a career in the U.S. government in 1985 after 33 years of service. He was a talented handyman and maintained a meticulous home and yard. His children were incredibly blessed and very proud to have him as a father and role model. He participated in a very active retirement life at Lake Monticello, Va., where he enjoyed entertaining and golfing with many friends. Don was incredibly sharp and amazingly independent right up to his passing.

Don is survived by his four children, Vicki Sharps (Chester), Doug Nelson (Kathy), Mike Nelson (Corrine) and Deb Morrison (Jack); his six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; his sister, Donna Mae Schaefer; and many nieces and nephews.

Published by *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on Dec. 14, 2021.

*Omega*

*Merle Arthur  
Johnson,  
AF 466*



**Merle Johnson** was a loving husband, father and grandfather; a devoted Christian, civic leader, and a pioneer in South Dakota law. He fought for life, family and freedom of religion. He fostered friendships that lasted a lifetime. Merle cherished family and serving God. He was described as a statesman, a gentleman and a great lawyer. He will be missed for all of these qualities but his faith, steadfastness and wit are what make people smile in remembrance.

Merle passed away on Oct. 8, 2020. He was 89. Born Dec. 8, 1930, he grew up on a farm south of Alcester, the oldest of two children of Ralph and Mary Johnson. While adept, or maybe not, at the usual farm chores, his mother had aspirations for him beyond the farm. At the age of 5, she enrolled him in Declam, a public speaking forum that prepared him for a life that made an impact on Sioux Falls and the state of South Dakota.

Merle attended Sioux Falls College and the University of South Dakota. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Law in 1955 and joined the small law firm of Woods, Fuller, Shultz & Smith. At the time, there were only 4 lawyers. By the time of his “retirement”, 60 plus years later, Woods Fuller had become the largest firm in South Dakota.

Early in his career, he practiced business and corporate law, as well as criminal and civil litigation, including several arguments before the South Dakota Supreme Court. Later in his career he specialized in estate planning. In 1996 he was invited to join the prestigious American College of Trust and Estate Council. He remained active in business and corporate law and served on many boards, helping to advance charitable and religious work in the city. His favorite legal cause, however, was helping families with adoptions, and he pioneered adoption laws in this state.

He had a passion for the University of Sioux Falls, where he served as a trustee for 45 years. In 2005, Merle was named A.O. Larsen outstanding alumni of the year. He served on the Woodlawn Cemetery Association for 36 years, as well as the American Baptist Homes of the Midwest, Christian Legal Society and Christian Counseling Services among others. He held leadership positions in the Elks and Kiwanis Clubs and Southeastern Mental Health Center. Near and dear to his heart was First Baptist Church, where he served in various leadership positions, including many years on Church Council.

Merle met the love of his life at an Augustana picnic in 1956, the lovely Sharon Frank. They built a life together that was inclusive of others and developed a friendship network that has lasted a lifetime. The couple joined First Baptist Church under the leadership of Roger Fredrikson, who became a great friend and mentor. Merle and Sharon were married 62 years.

Merle is survived by his wife, Sharon and their three children, Mary Lynne Johnson, Reed Johnson and Amy (Jonathan) *continued on next page*

*continued from  
previous page*

Ellis; four adored grandchildren, Cassidy, Grace, Thomas and Xavier; his sister, Margery Smith and his treasured 1960 white Ford Thunderbird. He was preceded in death by his parents, as well as many close friends.

The family would like to thank Avera Home Hospice for the loving, excellent care and comfort they provided Merle and his family in his final weeks.

*Reprinted from MILLER FUNERAL HOME - DOWNTOWN, Sioux Falls, SD*

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*Omega*

*James Dale  
Milberg,  
AF 579*



**James Dale Milberg** passed peacefully in his sleep on April 21st, 2022 in Englewood Colorado. Born March 5th, 1932 in Newell South Dakota, he was the only child of Elmer and Gladys (nee Titus) Milberg. He attended the University of Wyoming until he enlisted with the Army for service during the Korean Conflict in 1952. He resumed his college education at the University of South Dakota. It was there he met the love of his life, Myrna Morgan. They were wed December 22nd 1955. Upon graduation, Jim started his long career with IBM. He moved the family to Boulder in 1968. Colorado is still home to his entire family. Jim was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed fly fishing, running, and hiking.

Jim is preceded in death by his son, Mark; wife, Myrna. He is survived by son, Scott (Ruthie) of Littleton; grandchildren, Sandi Pastore (Jon) of Parker; Kirsten Jackson (Scott), of Centennial; Kyle of Erie, great-grandchildren, Dottie, Ruby, and Poppy Pastore; Evan and Connor Jackson.

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