

Watchdog Hall of Fame

Banquet and Induction Ceremony



Saturday, September 9, 2017

6:00 p.m.—Banquet

7:00 p.m.—Program and Induction Ceremony

Beresford Elementary School Gymnasium

**WATCHDOG
HALL OF FAME**

TOGETHER, WE ASPIRE, ACT AND ACHIEVE.

ACADEMICS - ACHIEVEMENT

FINE ARTS

ATHLETICS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Beresford School District

Dinner

Ribeye Steak

Seasoned Roasted Potatoes

Mixed Greens Salad

Dinner Roll

Assorted Cheesecake

Lemonade & Iced Tea

Program

Music.....Miss Audrey Graber, Mrs. Dawn Coggins, and Mr. Paul Coggins
Welcome.....Mr. Brian Field, Superintendent
Prayer.....Mr. Jake Limmer, BHS Senior
Dinner.....B & T's BBQ
Presentation of Watchdog Hall of Fame Inductees.....BHS Seniors

Academics & Achievement

Mrs. Ann (Goltz) Tornberg '74.....Mrs. Michelle Andrews

Fine Arts

Ms. Grace (Kylling) Kennedy '47.....Mrs. Jane Carlson
Mr. Milo Winter.....Mr. Paul Runyan

Athletics

Dr. Mara (McGill) Seier '03.....Mr. Mike Limmer
Mr. Jim Heeren.....Mr. Jerry Zeimetz
Mr. Jim Sorensen.....Mr. Tom Frieberg
1st Lt. Josef Thorne '58.....Mr. Tim Thorne

Distinguished Service

Mr. Cortland Carnes.....Mr. Steve Carnes
Watchdog Legacy Project.....Mr. Brian Field, Superintendent
Social.....Bridges at Beresford

Watchdog Hall of Fame Bios

Academics/Achievement



Mrs. Ann (Goltz) Tornberg

Mrs. Ann (Goltz) Tornberg is a 1974 graduate of Beresford High School. She was the first girl in the history of Beresford High School elected as Student Body President as a junior (another first). Her campaign message reasoned that seniors were already “moving on” and an underclassman was better motivated to work in student government. Mrs. Tornberg was a High School State Debate Champion, as well as a State Champ in Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking. She also enjoyed her time as student manager for the wrestling program working with Head Coach Jim Heeren.

Graduating from Augustana in 1976, she was on the Augie debate team and national college winner of the Bicentennial Youth Speaking Contest in 1976. She completed her Master's Degree from USD in 1982.

Mrs. Tornberg was an outstanding educator in the Beresford School District for 23 years, 1977-2000. She taught English, Speech, and Debate at Beresford High School and coached the Debate team. She was extremely committed to her students, her teaching, and the debate program. Mrs. Tornberg built one of the top debate programs in the state of South Dakota.

As a speech and debate coach at Beresford High School, Mrs. Tornberg coached a total of 16 students in 21 events who qualified for the National Tournament. This meant Beresford students had to compete against AA schools as there were no “classes” at the National Forensic League qualifying tournament. Probably the highlight of Mrs. Tornberg’s coaching career was

when Beresford won the Sweepstakes Award at the 1998 District Tournament—ahead of all the Sioux Falls and Rapid City Schools. Including individual events, Ann coached 34 South Dakota State Champions in debate, oratory, and extemp as well as national finalists in American Legion Oratory, FFA Extemp, VFW Voice of Democracy, History Day, and received over a dozen years of Superior ratings at the State One Act Play Contest.

The speech program was big in many years, but especially in 1999-2000, her last year teaching at BHS. That year, there were 120 members of the National Forensic League in Beresford. That meant each student had obtained a minimum of 25 points (6 points for a win in debate or a first place in individual events at a contest). Considering there were 250 students in the entire high school that year, close to half of them were on the debate team at some time during their high school career.

During her time at Beresford High School, Mrs. Tornberg's debate teams earned numerous state titles and won many invitational championships. Her Debate teams won seven state titles in 1979, 1980, 1985, 1995, 1997, 1999, and 2000 and her teams were state runner-up seven times. She also coached her own daughters Marie and Michelle to state and national titles in VFW Voice of Democracy, Original Oratory, and overall National Champion in the National Forensics League in 2000.

Mrs. Tornberg was featured in the December, 1999 *Rostrum*, a national debate publication, where she shared her philosophy of teaching and coaching:

“Students need to be challenged. They need to believe that they are intelligent individuals with the competency it takes to understand complicated issues. Give them a difficult task; give them time and instruction to figure it out; give them a goal to reach and reasonable deadlines; and finally, give them the chance to compete and prove that they have conquered the challenge. I believe these are the simple, but effective goals of quality instructors and coaches.”

Mrs. Tornberg continued to teach and coach at Sioux Falls Lincoln High School until 2005 when she left the classroom after being elected President of the Sioux Falls Education Association. She retired from education in 2010. Since then, she has served as a legislative aide at the State Legislature for four different sessions, and ran for office herself. At the end of 2014, she was elected to a four-year term as Chair of the South Dakota Democratic Party.

Mrs. Tornberg and her husband Mike raised two daughters—Marie and Michelle—both graduates of Beresford High School. Mrs. Tornberg enjoys keeping up with and spending time with her grandchildren.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Academics/Achievement inductee, Mrs. Ann (Goltz) Tornberg!

Fine Arts



Mrs. Grace (Kylling) Kennedy

Mrs. Grace (Kylling) Kennedy was born with the gift of music. She recognized, appreciated, and shared this gift throughout her life. She began taking piano lessons when she was five years old and regularly played for church services as a young girl. As a high school student at Beresford High School, Grace sang in the choir and also with a barbershop quartet which sang for many regional festivals and celebrations. She was a debater and especially enjoyed her role as the sports editor for the Beresonian. (Perhaps this is where she learned to love watching football games.)

After graduation from Beresford High School in 1947, Grace enrolled at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Here her piano performance skills rose to a level of expertise. She continued to refine her debate skills and was proud to win a national competition in Norwegian oratory. Graduating with degrees in music and English, Grace was eager to start her teaching career at East Middle School in Sioux City, Iowa. After one year, she returned home to Beresford.

For 35 years Mrs. Kennedy taught high school English, declam, speech, and K-12 vocal music in Beresford. Under her direction, the concert choir, and numerous ensembles and solos received consistent superior ratings at regional competitions. She produced the first show choir at BHS, directed ten musicals, and began the tradition of the Spring Talent Show. In appreciation for her accomplishments, Mrs. Kennedy was named 'Teacher of the Year' in 1992.

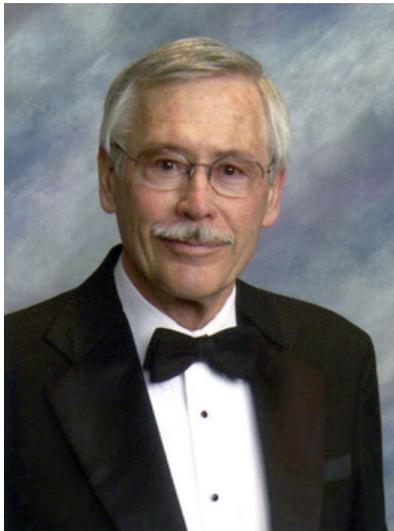
During the early years of her career at BHS, Grace earned her Master's Degree in Music Education from the University of South Dakota, taking classes during the summer and at night.

Music was a cornerstone of Grace's life. She shared her musical gifts with Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Romsdal Church as organist, and she directed the Emmanuel Lutheran Choir for

decades. She celebrated her 80th birthday by hosting a piano recital where she played her favorite hymns and melodies for a full church—with her oxygen tank resting beside her on the piano bench. She gave countless piano lessons. Her last was given the day before her final hospitalization.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Kennedy was grateful for her talent, and she was committed to sharing her gifts joyfully, with her students and her community.

Grace raised five children—Ann, Jane, Kim, Lee, and Steven—all graduates of Beresford High School. Congratulations to the family and friends of Mrs. Grace Kennedy on her induction into the Watchdog Hall of Fame!



Mr. Milo Winter

Mr. Milo Winter was privileged to be mentored by Ms. Grace Kennedy as a first year teacher in Beresford. He was the Director of Bands for the Beresford School District from 1956-1967. He is the retired Director of Bands at Stevens High School in Rapid City and Rapid City Municipal Band.

Mr. Winter is a graduate of Alpena High School and holds degrees from Augustana College in Sioux Falls and the University of South Dakota. He served as a trumpeter in US Army Bands in Colorado and Germany and played in the Sioux Falls Symphony and Municipal Band, the Rapid City Municipal Band and the Black Hills Symphony.

Mr. Winter's bands earned honors in the Midwest and Canada including Beresford Band's winning concert competition at the Red River Exhibition in Winnipeg. His Beresford Band also received 1st place at the Class B American Legion State Marching Band Contest. His Stevens Band was the first SD Band to perform in the Tournament of Roses Parade in 1987.

Mr. Winter was elected to the American Bandmasters Association in 1980 and is a past-president of the SD Bandmasters Association. He received the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award, the State MAC Award, the SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award and the SD School of Mines Service to Education Award. In 1990, Mr. Winter was the recipient of the Outstanding Music Educator Award from the National Federation of Interscholastic Music Association. Augustana College honored Mr. Winter with the Outstanding Alumni Award. In 1994, Mr. Winter received the Bandworld Legion of Honor Award. He was inducted to the SD Bandmasters Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2015, Mr. Winter received the SD Governor's Award in the Arts for Outstanding Service in Arts Education. He was twice named Distinguished Teacher by the Presidential Scholars Program.

Mr. Winter was active as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator at festivals and contests in the Midwest. He founded and directs the Rapid City New Horizons Band and was co-director of the Rapid City Municipal Band for 42 years. He has been a member of the Rapid City Municipal Band for 49 years and a member of the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra for 46 years.

Following retirement from teaching, Mr. Winter and his wife Ruth coordinated music festivals in the US and Canada for a music travel company. Mr. Winter returned to Beresford HS for its spring concert on May 2, 2016 and served as a guest conductor, directing a piece titled, **His Honor** by Henry Fillmore (Arr. Frederick Fennell). Mr. Winter is credited with building the excellent tradition of pride and quality in the Beresford School Band programs.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Fine Arts inductee, Mr. Milo Winter!

Athletics



Dr. Mara (McGill) Seier pictured with her 2-year old son Jack and husband Nate

Dr. Mara (McGill) Seier is a 2003 graduate of Beresford High School and she was a stellar student who was heavily involved in the fine arts and athletics. In high school, Dr. Seier was active in band, chorus, show choir, school plays, oral interp, yearbook, quiz bowl, student council, volleyball, basketball, and track and field. She was her class valedictorian and a member of the Sioux Falls Argus Leader Academic All-Star team in 2003.

Dr. Seier was a true asset and positive leader for our school in athletics—Volleyball, Basketball, and Track and Field. She was a team captain for our volleyball and basketball teams.

Dr. Seier helped lead our Girls' Volleyball team to its' only a State "A" title in 2002. She was named to the all-tournament team and to the volleyball class "A" first team all-state. She was named Miss Volleyball in South Dakota in 2002.

Dr. Seier also helped lead our basketball team to a third place team finish at the State "A" Tourney in 2003. She was selected to the all-tournament team and she was named to the class "A" first team all-state. She also received the coveted "Spirit of Su" award at the state girls' basketball tourney. Dr. Seier also scored over 1000 points during her high school basketball career.

Dr. Seier helped lead our track and field teams to two runner-up finishes at the State "A" Track and Field Meet in 2002 and 2003. She was a 2-time class "A" 100-meter hurdle state champion and 2-time state runner-up in the 100-meter hurdles. During her sophomore year, Dr. Seier won the gold medal award in the 100-meter hurdles for having the fastest time in all three classes of track and field. She was a 2-time state runner-up in the 300 meter hurdles as well. She also anchored several of our winning state sprint relays. Dr. Seier holds track and field

records at BHS in the 100-meter hurdles, 300 meter hurdles, and was part of the relay teams that have school records in the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, and 4 x 400. In 2003, Dr. Seier and her relay members set a State "A" Track and Field Meet record in the 4 x 400 relay.

Dr. Seier ranks as one of the finest all-around athletes in the history of Beresford High School.

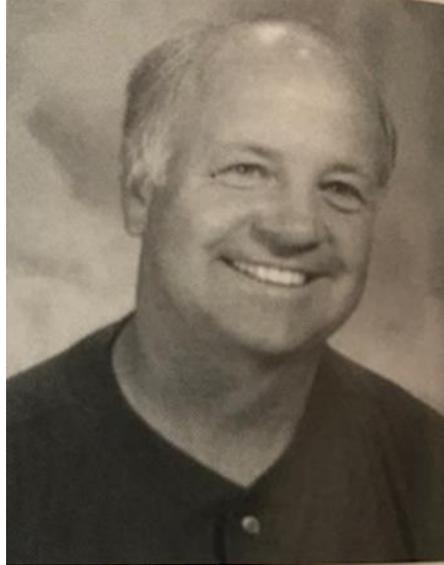
Dr. Seier attended the University of South Dakota for her undergraduate degree from 2003-2007. She was enrolled in the USD Honors' program and was a member of the Dean's List during her time at USD. She was an integral member of the USD Track and Field team and was a heptathlete for the Coyotes. Dr. Seier had an outstanding college career as well, overcoming a traumatic knee injury. She was a 4-time Academic All-American and a 5-time national provisional qualifier. She was a North Central Conference (NCC) champion in the Heptathlon and an NCC Athlete of the Week. Dr. Seier was an NCC Honor Athlete and was named the NCC's Outstanding Student-Athlete of the Year in 2007. She was also named USD's Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Dr. Seier was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She earned a research grant, as well as an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Dr. Seier attended the University of South Dakota Medical School from 2007-2011. She was named the outstanding 3rd year Medical Student in Internal Medicine at USD.

Dr. Seier completed her neurology residency at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)/Portland VA. She completed her Movement Disorders fellowship at OHSU/VA from 2015-June, 2017. On September 1, Dr. Seier began her new position as an Assistant Professor in the Neurology department at the Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Seier is a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the Movement and Parkinson's Disorder Society.

Her biggest and proudest accomplishment is her 2-year old son Jack. She is married to Nate Seier. Dr. Seier is the daughter of Mike and Pam McGill.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Athletics inductee, Dr. Mara (McGill) Seier!



Mr. Jim Heeren

Mr. Jim Heeren was a science teacher, physical education teacher, head football coach, head wrestling coach, and Athletic Director during his 32 year career at Beresford Schools, 1967-1999. He was an assistant football coach for one year prior to becoming the Head Football Coach for the next 31 years. Mr. Heeren also spent 6 years as the Head Wrestling Coach and 23 years as the Athletic Director at Beresford High School.

The following was printed in the July 26, 2001 edition of the Akron Register-Tribune:

“Coach Jim Heeren began his love for sports many years ago during recess at Spring Creek Country School in rural Union County, South Dakota. By the time he entered the seventh grade, his dad had promised him he would drive him to town for baseball practice as long as the bailing and chores were done on the farm.

Heeren always cherished the privilege of having an opportunity to be involved in organized sports. As he grew older, he attended high school in nearby Akron (graduating in 1963) where his love for football, track and baseball flourished into a life-time plan.

Heeren went on to pursue studies in biology and physical education at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. As a Coyote, he played baseball for four years. He started his last three years, was awarded the “Coyote Hustler of the Year” award, and led the team in RBI’s during his senior year. Heeren obtained his Master’s degree at USD. Throughout college and the years following, he played ten years of amateur baseball in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa. Jim coached all levels of youth baseball for many years thereafter.

Upon completion of his college education, Heeren took a teaching and coaching job in Beresford. Little did he know that he would stay there for the next thirty-two years coaching the Watchdogs. For six years as wrestling coach, the Dogs had a 44-24 career record.

Beresford took fourth place in the 1970 Class B Wrestling Tournament. Heeren continued to officiate wrestling for the next six years in South Dakota and Iowa.

He spent 32 years coaching Watchdog football, 31 years as the head coach where his teams compiled a career record of 177-114-2. The Watchdogs qualified for state playoffs 17 times in 20 years of playoff events. His team won 8 conference (Big 8 & Big Sioux) championships. In 1979 and 1980, his teams were mythical State Champs (sportswriters' and coaches' polls when there were only 2 classes of 11-man football) and in 1987, the Watchdogs won the State Football 11-B Championship, beating Flandreau 7-6.

Heeren's professional achievements in coaching were recognized when he received the 1987 Sioux Falls Quarterback Club Coach of the Year, the 1989 Region 6 Coach of the Year, and the 1990 Region 6 Coach of the Year."

Coach Heeren had numerous all-state football players and had a number of players that continued on to play college football. Coach Heeren had a number of sayings and a couple that stick out are "bleeding purple" and "hurts good." He most definitely had a gift and passion for teaching and coaching. He was truly a motivator and had a positive influence on numerous student-athlete's lives.

Coach Heeren entered the South Dakota High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2001. He entered the South Dakota Football Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 2002.

Mr. Heeren taught Sunday school for 7 years at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Beresford and served on their Building Board. He also served on the Farm Services Committee Board for 8 years.

Since his retirement from teaching and coaching, Mr. Heeren continues to farm northeast of Beresford, where he resides with his wife Franie. The Heerens' have 5 children—April, Heidi, Heather, Molly, and Ted—all graduates of Beresford High School.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Athletics inductee, Mr. Jim Heeren!



Mr. Jim Sorensen pictured with his wife Sharon

Mr. Jim Sorensen was a high school social studies teacher, head girls' and boys' golf coach, head boys' basketball coach, and assistant girls' basketball coach during his time at Beresford High School.

Mr. Sorensen graduated from Sioux Falls Washington High School in 1962 and Augustana College with a Bachelor's degree in History and P.E. in 1966. He was a three-year letter winner in basketball and golf at Augustana. He earned his Master's degree from the University of South Dakota.

Mr. Sorensen's entire teaching career was in Beresford (1967-70 and 1971-2005) with the exception of one-year stints at Franklin HS in Minnesota (1966-67) and Tri-Valley HS (1970-71). In 2005, Mr. Sorensen retired from teaching but he continued to coach head boys' basketball for 2 more years and in 2010 returned to head boys' golf.

Coach Sorensen was a golf coach at Beresford HS for 41 years, retiring in the fall, 2016. His golf teams won 23 Big 8 and Big Sioux Conference championships, 27 Region championships, 12 State championships, 11 State runner-up awards, and 33 top 5 finishes.

Coach Sorensen's boys' golf teams were state champions 4 times (1979, 1984, 1985, and 2003). His boys' golf teams were state runner-up 5 times (1978, 1980, 1981, 2000, and 2005).

Coach Sorensen was the girls' golf coach at Beresford High School for 32 years. His girls' golf teams were state champions 8 times (1978, 1979, 1980, 1989, 1995, 1997, 2001, and 2002). His girls' golf teams were state runner-up 6 times (1977, 1981, 1982, 1990, 1994, and 1996).

Coach Sorensen was named "South Dakota's Golf Coach of the Year" by the South Dakota High School Athletic Coaches Association 4 times throughout his career. He was also a National Golf

Coach of the Year finalist 3 times and in July, 2012 Coach Sorensen was named the “National Golf Coach of the Year” by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Coach Sorensen was the head boys’ basketball coach at Beresford High School for 36 years, 1971-2007. His head boys’ basketball coaching record at Beresford High School was 474-310. His overall career head boys’ basketball coaching record was 494-327 and he had 27 winning seasons.

Coach Sorensen’s basketball teams won eight Big 8 and Big Sioux Conference championships, 11 District championships, 5 Region championships, and made it to 5 State Tournaments. Coach Sorensen led the Watchdogs to runner-up finishes at the 1979 and 1980 State “B” Tournaments, and 1986 State “A” Tourney. His teams placed 7th at the State “B” Tourney in 1981 and 3rd in the State “A” Tourney in 1995.

During his career, Coach Sorensen was a member of the National High School Coaches’ Association, South Dakota High School Coaches’ Association, South Dakota Golf Coaches’ Association, and South Dakota Basketball Coaches’ Association.

Coach Sorensen received several Region Coach of the Year honors as both an assistant coach in girls’ basketball and as a head coach in boys’ basketball. He was named to the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Shrine. He entered the South Dakota High School Athletic Coaches’ Association Hall of Fame in 2010. He was also named to the National High School Coaches’ Association “Hall of Excellence.” To cap off his teaching and coaching career at Beresford, Mr. Sorensen received a South Dakota High School Activities Association “Distinguished Service” award.

Coach Sorensen continues to be an avid golfer. He and his wife Sharon reside in Beresford and enjoy following activities of their grandchildren. The Sorensens’ have four children—Jesseca, Jamie, Jon, and Joe—all graduates of Beresford High School.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Athletics, inductee Mr. Jim Sorensen!



1st Lieutenant Josef L. Thorne

First Lieutenant Josef L. Thorne was a 1958 Beresford High School graduate. He attended BHS during his junior and senior years and was a stellar athlete in football, basketball, and track and field. At BHS, he played for Head Coach Roger Price in football and Head Coach George Ryan in basketball. He also played trombone in the band and was a section leader. During his junior year, his band director was Mr. Milo Winter. He absolutely loved sports and being involved in band.

During his junior season, Josef Thorne helped lead his football team to a Big 8 Conference title and a mythical 11-man State Football Championship. Back then, there were only two classes of 11-man football and there were no playoffs. At that time, the sportswriters and coaches did the polls for rankings and mythical state titles. Also during his junior year, he helped lead his basketball team to a Big 8 Conference title. During his senior year, Josef helped lead his basketball team to the Class "A" Section VI Championship with a win over Tom Brokaw's Yankton Bucks, which advanced Beresford to the State "A" Tourney.

Based on his high school accomplishments, Josef Thorne earned a scholarship to play football at South Dakota State University (SDSU) for legendary Head Football Coach Ralph Ginn. At SDSU, Thorne became one of the all-time great football stars in South Dakota's history while studying and majoring in Civil Engineering. Not only was he a standout football player, he became an important campus leader at SDSU.

The information for this bio was obtained from the following sources:

GoJacks.com—Official Web Site of South Dakota State Athletics, SDSU Sports Information Department, October 29, 2009.

South Dakota State University Alumni Magazine, Jackrabbit Village, "Joe Thorne—Football, Military Hero," November 1, 2012.

The Collegian—"Jackrabbit Village: The influential SDSU alumni behind the hall names."

South Dakota Magazine, "A Fitting Honor for Joe Thorne," by John Andrews, April 6, 2011.

www.sdvietnamwarmemorial.com, "Fallen Sons of South Dakota during the Vietnam War," submitted by April G. Goodson, a 10th grader at Spearfish High School, October 10, 2005.

Josef "Joe" Thorne was the SDSU Jackrabbits' fullback in the days when the fullback was the offense. Fargo Forum sports editor Eugene Fitzgerald wrote, "If the Jackrabbits missed on first or second down, they'd give it to Thorne on third down and he'd usually go for more yards than were needed in the series."

Legendary SDSU Head Football Coach Ralph Ginn stated, "The best fullback I've ever had...In your years of coaching, you work with a lot of guys. It seems like some become part of you. That's the way it was with Joe. He made a terrific impact on our football team. I've never known a player in our conference that opponents respected more."

As a junior, Josef Thorne broke the record for most carries in a single season with 166, 18 more than the old mark. He also led the North Central Conference (NCC) in rushing as a junior. Thorne had many memorable games. The 1961 SDSU football press guide said, "He can punch the opponents' line full of holes with his hard running." He did that often. During his senior season in 1961, he had 958 yards rushing. As a senior, he was co-captain of an SDSU team which went 8-2 for the year and tied for the North Central Conference title.

He rushed for 2,156 yards during his career and scored 140 points. By the time he was done, he ranked first in career rushing, third in scoring and fourth in total offense. He also set three school records:

- *most carries in one game, 30 (for 161 yards) against State College of Iowa (now Northern Iowa) in 1961;
- *most yards rushing in one game, 200 (on 21 carries) against Morningside in 1961; and
- *most carries in one year, 174 in 1961.

Josef Thorne earned All-American honors as a senior and was picked to the All-North Central Conference team in 1960 and 1961. He also earned the North Central Conference Most Valuable Player award as a senior.

Doug Peterson from Rapid City was a sophomore quarterback at SDSU during Thorne's senior year in 1961. Regarding Thorne, Peterson stated, "He was totally committed to the thing he did. I never saw anybody fight harder for every yard on a football field." According to

Peterson, off the field, Thorne was quiet, "just a really good guy." "He was an easy-going person, unless you were on the other football team and you were trying to tackle him."

Josef graduated from SDSU with a degree in civil engineering in 1963. The Green Bay Packers drafted Thorne to play professional football and he attended a summer rookie camp in 1963. But when he didn't show up for another camp, Coach Vince Lombardi called his home. Thorne's dad Melvin told Coach Lombardi that Joe hadn't gone to school to learn how to be a football player. Josef had joined the Army ROTC at SDSU and he felt obligated to serve his country in the military. Lombardi said he understood and invited Josef to call him after his military service was complete.

Josef Thorne had an army commission as a second lieutenant and was part of the Army Reserves Officers Training Corps. On September 18, 1963, he was assigned to active duty with the U.S. Army. Josef received training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and additional training to become a pilot at Fort Watters, Texas and then Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Lieutenant Thorne was sent overseas to Vietnam in November, 1964 for a one-year tour of duty. He was stationed at Phan Thiet and served with the 145th Aviator Airlift Platoon. Lt. Thorne was originally assigned to fly mail but instead volunteered for combat missions to fly assault helicopters in Vietnam. He served as commander of a UH-1B helicopter.

Lt. Thorne was given an assignment to fly a combat mission in the region near Qui Nhon, Vietnam. He was flying a Huey helicopter when the enemy began to fire on him and another plane from the ground. The plane and the Huey helicopter Lt. Thorne was flying were shot down on Sunday, April 19, 1965. Nine men were killed in all, Lt. Josef Thorne among them. Lt. Josef Thorne was just 24 years old and he was the first South Dakotan to die in the Vietnam War, 41 days after the first combat forces arrived in Vietnam.

1st Lt. Josef L. Thorne's memorial service was held on the SDSU campus in Doner Auditorium, where more than 800 students, faculty, staff, family, and friends attended to honor him. He was buried with military honors at Greenwood Cemetery in Brookings. 1st Lt. Josef L. Thorne's name has the 21st place on the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Upon Josef's passing, Rudi Schiffer, an Associated Press sportswriter at that time wrote, "Joe Thorne was never one to sit on the sidelines. It was this drive that led to his death in Vietnam where his helicopter was shot down...not content with his first assignment of flying mail, he volunteered to fly assault helicopters. Joe probably flew his copter like he played football. He was a head-down, bull-doing type of fullback who saw no barrier in front of him, human or otherwise."

Following Thorne's memorial service, the president of SDSU at the time, Hilton M. Briggs stated in the Beresford Republic, "He was a fine student and a perfect gentleman in everything he did." The Governor of the State of South Dakota at the time, Nils Boe, said of Josef, "No one could have known Joe and not have been better because of the acquaintance." Senator George

McGovern stated for the Congressional Record, “He was a hero to thousands of South Dakota schoolboys. His death brings the war in Vietnam closer to the heart of every South Dakota citizen.” In another tribute to Josef it was stated, “He was a special guy, with a competitive spirit that never waned.”

The former managing editor of the NBC Nightly News and South Dakota native Tom Brokaw has written about Joe Thorne a few times based on their connection through the sport of high school basketball. On April 5, 1987, Brokaw wrote an article for the New York Times titled, “Views of Sport; A Small Town, A Tiny Gym, and A Hero,” in which he talked about Joe Thorne, “that tenacious guard who kept me from the state tournament my senior year.”

In 2002, Brokaw wrote a book titled, A Long Way from Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland. On pages 106-107, he wrote, “I was looking forward to a triumphant tournament. Then, disaster. We were upset in the qualifying round by a smaller town whose team was led by an aggressive guard name Joe Thorne. He was in my face all night long. My last chance to fulfill a life’s dream—gone, less than a month after my eighteenth birthday. There isn’t a year I don’t recall that loss and the enormous hole it blew in my expectations.”

In 2003, Brokaw wrote a book titled, A Long Way from Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland in the Forties and Fifties. On pages 108-109, he wrote, “I can still remember games, shots that were good and shots that missed, teammates and opposing players, including Joe Thorne, that tenacious guard who kept me from the state tournament my senior year. Thorne went on to play football at South Dakota State College and won a commission to the Army ROTC. In Washington, his name is in one of those directories at the entrance to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Lieutenant Josef Lloyd Thorne was killed in Vietnam in April, 1965, a few months short of his twenty-fifth birthday.”

Josef and his wife Diane had one son named Travis. He had three brothers—Tim (Brookings), Tracy (Huron), and Roy (Hoven) and two sisters—Jeanne (Scottsdale, AZ) and Julie (Omaha, NE). His mom Mary Jane passed away in June, 2015 and his dad Melvin passed away in November, 2015.

In 1978, Josef Thorne became South Dakota State’s 14th member of the Jackrabbit Hall of Fame. Today, there is a memorial football scholarship and residence hall named after Josef Thorne at SDSU. Thorne Hall is one of three new residence halls that was completed within Jackrabbit Village in August, 2010.

Josef Thorne has been hailed as one of South Dakota’s heroes. He is truly an American hero, not only for our school and community of Beresford but for our state and our grateful nation. Congratulations to the family and friends of 1st Lt. Josef Thorne on his induction into the Watchdog Hall of Fame!

Distinguished Service



Mr. Cortland Carnes pictured with his wife Engie.

Mr. Cortland Carnes served as a school administrator in South Dakota for 32 years. Following graduation from General Beadle State College in Madison in 1959, he began teaching and coaching in the Franklin School District. In 1962, he received his Master's degree from SDSU in Brookings. He served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Franklin School District for three years, 1963-66. Following the reorganization of the Franklin district with Chester, Mr. Carnes served as the Superintendent of Schools at Chester for seven years, 1966-73. Beginning in 1973 until his retirement in 1995, he was the Superintendent of Schools in Beresford for 22 years.

When he first arrived in Beresford, many younger students were being educated in trailer houses and church basements. Mr. Carnes and his board were instrumental and are credited with gaining the support of our community for the development of the great facilities that we have the pleasure of enjoying today. Mr. Carnes was also very active in the development of Beresford's Community Education program and served on numerous educational boards for the state and local universities.

During his 36 year career as a teacher, coach, and administrator, Mr. Carnes played an active role in high school activities programs in South Dakota. For 32 years, he was a district or region committee member or committee chairperson for the sports of basketball, wrestling, and track and field. Mr. Carnes was a 50 year track and field meet starter at Chester and Beresford. Mr. Carnes served as the meet director for the preliminary session of the SDHSAA State Track and Field Meet on six occasions. In addition, he has worked as an official at many other athletic, music and speech related activities for SDHSAA events over the past 36 years.

Mr. Carnes received numerous awards during his educational career. He served as president of the South Dakota School Superintendent's Association in 1988-89 and the School Administrators of South Dakota in 1989-90. During the 1989-90 school year, Mr. Carnes was

selected as South Dakota's Outstanding School Superintendent of the Year. In 1990, Mr. Carnes was awarded the Dakota State University Distinguished Alumnus. In 1993, Mr. Carnes was awarded the Administrative Technology Leadership Award which recognized his leadership in educational technology.

By executive proclamation, Governor Bill Janklow designated May 26, 1995 as "Cortland Carnes Day" in South Dakota, and on that same day, the Beresford School Board announced that they were naming the athletic stadium in Beresford as "Cortland Carnes Stadium." In 1995, Mr. Carnes was awarded a career Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota School Superintendents' Association.

Although retired from education, Mr. Carnes continued to start track and field meets at Beresford and area schools until 2015. Mr. Carnes is active in his church, the Beresford Lions Club, and remains an avid golfer.

Mr. Carnes and his wife Engie raised four children: Steve, Glenda, Nancy, and Clif—all graduates of Beresford High School. During his retirement, Mr. Carnes and his wife have enjoyed attending the various fine arts and athletic events of their 12 grandchildren.

Congratulations to our Watchdog Hall of Fame Distinguished Service inductee, Mr. Cortland Carnes!

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