

The Chair

There's been an empty chair during our meetings of late
Lacking one whose value we in no way can rate
Although we regret that will always remain
We know his wisdom will continue our club to sustain

He founded a way for both young and old
To develop a skill as their brief lives unfold
With a gouge, a scraper, and yes, a sharp skew
A hobby, a craft, whatever your view

His words of advice were clear and precise
In a sonorous, firm voice with a chuckle so nice
The lift of his cap and rub of his head
Were part of his way as he effectively led

His signature was always to keep the chips flying
If at first you don't succeed, don't let up from trying
And thus that empty chair during our meetings of late
Will echo his spirit we in no way can rate

Norbert Berning

Duncan Warren
Founding Member of the Dakota Woodturners
One of the good guys
January 17, 1922 - March 19, 2010

Duncan Warren was a special person and definitely one of the good guys. His passing on March 19th will leave a large void in our organization and he will be deeply and very much missed. Most of us know him mainly from our association with the Dakota Woodturners. He had many other attributes and some probably don't know, as I didn't know, of Duncan's many other gifts and achievements.

He started his career as a Vocational Agriculture teacher in Gackle and Hazen. He then worked with the USDA as a soil conservationist and then was the director of the Morton County Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to being a founding member of the Dakota Woodturners Chapter, Duncan also had many other hobbies such as hunting, fishing, photography, rock collecting and woodworking. He was active in numerous organizations and his church.

Duncan was probably most proud of his service to the country during World War II and his participation in the Battle of the Bulge, serving with General George Patton. He said he was especially pleased to

have had the opportunity this past fall to make a trip to Washington, DC with the Roughrider Honor Flight, to view the World War II Memorial.

The formation of the DWT's Chapter, which he initiated, is also one of his proudest accomplishments. This was his dream, wanting the best organization to provide learning opportunities to its members. Having started his career as a teacher, he continued being a teacher at heart as evidenced in his goal of providing instruction through holding public demonstrations, the annual woodturning symposium and making sure instruction was available to students and anyone interested in or new to woodturning. With promoting the club through teaching the craft he always stressed doing it safety. He knew the health of the club would be based on education, getting new members interested in woodturning. Duncan believed if the members were continually learning new things through classes and demonstrations the Chapter would remain fresh and interesting.

Duncan was also special in that even though he was a founding member and served as the first President, he was able to step back and let others take the lead in determining the future of the Chapter. He wasn't concerned about taking any credit, being more concerned with the end result. Even with relinquishing the reins of leadership, he was still available to provide advice and counsel. He was always available to assist in any way possible, even if just providing moral support as he often said. If he noticed something that concerned him he had a way of making his point subtly. He had a way of planting a seed, maybe watering it a little and then letting it grow. Duncan was good at planting seeds. I am sure the seeds he sowed will continue to grow for a long time to come.

Duncan has left us a legacy that will go on to continue for a very long time. We will honor his memory by continuing with his vision for the Chapter to always promote the craft through and instruction.

Rest in Peace Duncan
We will all miss you, but we thank God we knew you.

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived." General George Patton

Duncan Warren



Duncan R. Warren, 88, Mandan, died March 19, 2010, at St. Alexius Medical Center, Bismarck. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24, at Mandan United Methodist Church, 610 12th Street, N.W., Mandan, with the Rev. Steve C. Johnson officiating. Burial will be in the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery with military honors provided by the VFW Post 707 and American Legion Post 40.

Visitation will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Duncan R. Warren was born Jan. 17, 1922, in Sabin, Minn., to Charles and Helen (McNair) Warren. Raised and educated in Hawley, Minn., he graduated from Hawley High School. In 1942 Duncan was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving with the 11th Armored Division in Europe during WWII and participated in the Battle of the Bulge and liberation of Mauphousen Concentration Camp. Duncan was wounded during his service and was awarded the Purple Heart. After the war, Duncan attended Moorhead State College and graduated from North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo in 1950. On Dec. 27, 1947, Duncan married Myrle Townsend in Moorhead, Minn.

For three years, Duncan taught Veterans Agriculture in Gackle and Hazen schools. He then worked as a soil conservationist for the USDA in Hazen, Center, and Mandan. While in Mandan, Duncan became the first District Supervisor for the Lewis and Clark RC and D. Following his retirement from the USDA, he served as the Superintendent of Morton County Parks and Recreation.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Duncan enjoyed the great outdoors with his family and friends. His hobbies included rock collecting, photography, and woodworking. A talented woodworker, he helped to found the Dakota Woodturners Association in 1998. Duncan was instrumental in establishing the annual Woodturners Symposium that now serves as a model for woodturning organizations throughout the country. He also brought the art of woodturning to students in area schools.

Duncan was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Elks, Western Aires and Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. He was a charter member of the Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Association. Duncan was an active member of the Mandan United Methodist Church and served on various committees within the church. He was active with Boy Scout Troop 51 and founded the first Explorers Post in Mandan. In all, Duncan's life was spent in service to others. He recently traveled to Washington, D.C., as a member of the Roughrider Honor Flight to honor WWII Veterans. Active in the community, Duncan could be counted on when needed. This wonderfully witty and generous man, kind and compassionate to his family, friends, and community, and an honored military veteran will forever be remembered and loved.

Blessed to have shared his life are his wife of 62 years, Myrle Warren, Mandan; his daughter, Jo Warren, Santa Fe, N.M.; two sons, John (Rebecca) Warren, Mandan, and Jeffrey Warren, Larkspur, Colo.; one brother, George Warren, Lake Park, Minn.; and one granddaughter, Sara Harrie, Alexandria, Va.

Duncan was preceded in death by his parents and an infant son, James.

To honor the life of Duncan Warren, donations may be made to Roughrider Honor Flight, PO Box 220 Bismarck, N.D. 58502 or Dakota Woodturners, PO Box 243, Bismarck, N.D. 58502.

Go to www.weigelfuneral.com to sign the online guest book and view flower and tribute photos.

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