



*In Loving Memory*  
CELEBRATING A LIFE

*Robert Thomas "Tom" Bartholomew*

September 8, 1939 - November 3, 2016

**Celebration of Tom's Life:**

10:30 a.m., Wednesday, November 9, 2016  
St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
Faulkton, South Dakota

**Celebrant:** Father Christopher Hughes

**Musicians:** Pierre Folk Group,  
St. Thomas Choir, Jerry Bowar

**Music Selections:**

"Down to the River" - "Psalm 23"  
"Blest are They"  
"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"  
"They Shall Soar Like Eagles"  
"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

**Offertory:** Roger & Jan Melius

**Altar Servers:** James, John, & Simon Bowar

**Readers:** Andrea Bartholomew,  
David Bartholomew, Bethany Fristad, Thomas Fristad

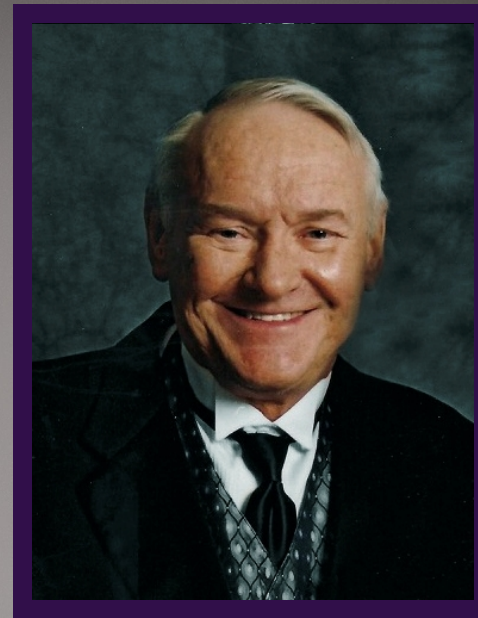
**Ushers:** Sal & Slade Roseland,  
Kasey & Gordon Kopecky

**Private Interment:**

St. Thomas Cemetery  
Faulkton, South Dakota

*Hope Strength*  
Lunch will immediately follow the Celebration of Tom's  
Life at the Faulkton Community Center.

Arrangements Entrusted To  
Luce Funeral Home - Faulkton, S.D.  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



*Tom Bartholomew*

1939 - 2016

"How does one measure the worth of one's life?  
Is it how much money you make, or how famous you  
are, or how big a house you live in, or how expensive a  
car you drive? I don't think so. You ask yourself: if  
you've helped a few people along the way; if you've  
provided for your family and tried to be a good  
example for them; if maybe you end up leaving your  
one small corner of the world better than you found it,  
isn't that what it's all about?"

-RTB

Robert Thomas "Tom" Bartholomew - loving son and brother, devoted husband, caring father, passionate outdoorsman and athlete, man of faith and fellowship and a true friend to all - passed away Thursday, November 3, 2016 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls. He was 77.

Tom was born September 8, 1939 in Phillip, SD to George and Grace (Bessie) Bartholomew. The second of eleven siblings, Tom grew up in Lemmon, SD. He graduated from Lemmon High School in 1957 and was an All-State basketball player his senior year. Tom received his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from South Dakota State College in 1961. In June of the same year, he married Linda Johnson - the love of his life - and in October 1961 they moved to Faulkton, SD. Tom had selected Faulkton for its great pheasant hunting, and many noon lunch breaks found him out in the fields, with Linda at the wheel and Tom "riding shotgun."

First hired as a pharmacist for the Faulkton Rexall Drug, Tom and Linda bought the business in 1965, which they owned and operated as husband and wife for over forty years. Under their stewardship, the drugstore became the hub of the community and "Drugstore Tom" quickly became an integral part of the community. Not only did he dispense medication, he gave out daily doses of humor, trivia, wisdom, advice and love. Tom was a gifted storyteller and an equally generous listener to everyone who crossed his path.

In 1962, Tom and Linda welcomed their daughter Stacey into the world. Sons Scott and Steven followed in 1963 and 1966. Tom spent mornings, lunch breaks, evenings and weekends with his children, fishing, shooting hoops, playing catch or simply going for a country drive. He cherished time around the table, whether for a dinner of roast beef and potatoes or a glass of Crown Royal.

His love of sports was always at the forefront of his life. When the local high school boys would hang out at the store, he reveled in talking with them about how things were going - be it football, basketball, baseball or track. For many years, he would pack his car with kids and take them to the State "B" basketball tournament in Sioux Falls or Rapid City. Lasting friendships were forged during these years and continued into their adulthood.

Tom's fervent devotion to the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins lasted his entire life. With innumerable trips to Metropolitan Stadium, the Metrodome and Target Field, Tom proudly waved purple and gold flags, red and blue pennants and was the proud owner of the infamous "Viking Car." Through the wins and losses, Tom found joy in the camaraderie that his beloved Twins and Vikings provided.

When his own boys were old enough, he started the tradition of taking the grade school basketball teams to the YMCA tournament in Aberdeen. For many of these kids, Tom gave them their first chance to go out of town, stay in a motel and play basketball against kids from across the state. Although it's been many years since Tom stopped coaching, the YMCA trips continue and include girls' basketball teams as well.

Upon moving to Faulkton, Tom immediately became involved in all aspects of the community. He joined organizations, participated in league bowling and played basketball in the winter and baseball in the summer for the local amateur teams. He worked six days a week as a pharmacist and business owner. He acted in Community Theater and was a NOAA award-winning weatherman. He became involved with - and held offices in - Knights of Columbus, the Community Club, the Arts Council and the Lions Club.

He coached Little League baseball and boys' basketball, instructed the Hunter's Safety Course, was coordinator of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, served on the Campaign Steering Committee for the Faulkton Area Medical Centers and was a lector at St. Thomas Apostle Catholic Church. When the community was struggling because of a shortage of healthcare professionals a number of years ago, this man was the "go-to" guy if someone needed medical advice. Even after retiring, he would still get calls and answer questions.

Tom exemplified helping others. He took kids out fishing - many catching their first fish with Tom. He hired kids to work at the drugstore and mentored many future pharmacists. On countless occasions, he delivered medicine to someone in need, even when they couldn't pay. Many were the nights when his children would find a wayfaring stranger sleeping in their house, having been welcomed by Tom in their moment of need.

Tom made his small corner of the world better.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Linda Bartholomew; their children: Stacey Bartholomew, Arvada, CO, Scott (Lydia) Bartholomew, Denver, CO, and Steven (Andrea) Bartholomew, Narragansett, RI; siblings: Marie Wolbach, Palo Alto, CA, Jean (Larry) Fritz, Lemmon, SD, Ralph (Fern) Bartholomew, Powell, WY, Chuck (Leslie) Bartholomew, Las Vegas, NV, Susan Schopp, Cavalier, ND, Ken (Twyla) Bartholomew, Ft. Pierre, SD, Don (Sue Fraiser) Bartholomew, Chandler, AZ, David (Marian) Bartholomew, Faulkton, SD, and Teresa Bartholomew, Faulkton, SD; grandchildren: Thomas and Bethany Fristad (Stacey), Denver, CO, Justin O'Donnell and Anna Bartholomew (Steven), Narragansett, RI; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Grace Bartholomew; brother, Bill Bartholomew; sister-in-law, Liz Bartholomew; and brother-in-law, Bob Wolbach.

*Memories*