



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Remembering NDRWSA Past-President Don Flynn



Donald Wayne Flynn, 82, of Bismarck, passed away on June 4 at his home.

Flynn was born Nov. 8, 1932 in St. Paul, Minn., to Hugo Beuthien and Alma (Busch) Flynn. At a young age, he moved to Scranton where he was raised. He graduated from Scranton High School in 1950. He then moved to Washington and

worked for Boeing. He met and married Bonnie Randall. To this marriage, his five children were born. They returned to the family farm in Scranton where he farmed and worked at the Scranton Equity. Later, he moved to Sioux Falls, S.D., where he worked as a sales manager for Ben Franklin Veterinary Supplies. After six years, he returned to Scranton Equity as the feed plant manager where he worked until he retired. In retirement, he enjoyed serving on various boards including the Southwest Water Authority and was an active member of the Lions Club. He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Scranton and later Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bismarck.

Flynn moved to Bismarck and married the love of his life, Edna Zerr, in 2009. Although it was too short, they thoroughly enjoyed their time together. They spent their time playing cards with friends and family, including a special brother-in-law, Ernie. They also enjoyed taking trips to the

casino and attending concerts there and traveling and visiting with family. Edna especially enjoyed listening to him tell stories about his life. He captivated her attention, and she admired him immensely. He was happiest when she was around, and it was evident they held a special love. They were affectionately referred to as “the two old birds.”

Flynn enjoyed his time as a salesman, watching sports, playing pinochle, fishing, and being involved in the community. He loved spending time with his family and was very proud of each of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He knew no strangers; in his eyes, all were considered friends. He was a gentle, humble man who never complained. He endured life’s challenges with patience and perseverance. Rarely were his bright blue eyes without a twinkle, and a smile was never far from his face. He brightened the lives of all who loved him and will be missed dearly.

Those grateful to have shared in his life are his loving wife, Edna; one daughter, Donna (Roger) Urbanec, Black Hawk, S.D.; three sons, Steve Flynn, Lake Havasu City, Ariz., Tom (Terrie) Flynn, Cathedral City, Calif., Darrell (Karen) Flynn, Bismarck; four step-children, Pam Zerr, Golden, Colo., Laurie (Tom) Giffey, Van Hook, Dale (Corrine) Zerr, Colorado Springs, Colo., and Darla Zerr, Bismarck; 20 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and numerous other family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Duane, and grandson, Ryan.

Federal Grants Available for Mitigation Projects

The North Dakota Department of Emergency Services has been notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is announcing \$180 million in funding available through two hazard mitigation assistance grant programs: flood mitigation assistance and pre-disaster mitigation. These two grant programs assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in strengthening the nation’s ability to reduce the potential cost of natural disasters to communities and their citizens, as well as protecting life and property from future disaster damages. Eligible applicants can begin the application process through the Department of Emergency Services to

obtain a 75 percent federal cost-share grant for eligible projects and activities.

Eligible applicants include state, local, tribal, and territorial governments that currently have, or have participated in, the creation of a FEMA-approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP). If a governmental unit does not have a current FEMA-approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, it can apply to create or update one, but is ineligible to apply for any other eligible activities. State agencies fall under the state of North Dakota’s plan and are eligible to apply for funding.

Eligible grant activities include: property acquisition/

Heitkamp's Bipartisan Legislation to Promote, Protect Rural Water Supplies Unanimously Passes Senate



U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) announced the Senate unanimously passed her bipartisan legislation to make sure small towns and rural areas have the technical assistance and training they need to help protect and improve their water supplies.

Just four months ago, Heitkamp and Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) introduced legislation to support rural water

systems in North Dakota and across the country. The Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act would address difficulties small and rural towns often face in complying with federal drinking water rules, as they often lack the resources for the latest technology or access to the technical assistance to do so. Heitkamp and Wicker's bill would help offset these costs by providing \$15 million in annual technical assistance and training to help small towns and rural areas provide their residents and businesses with safe, clean drinking water. Less than three months ago, Heitkamp and Wicker's bill unanimously passed in the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

"We need to make sure all North Dakota families and businesses have access to clean and safe drinking water – including those living in rural communities," says Heitkamp. "The Senate unanimously passed our bipartisan bill to reauthorize a program that helps make sure rural communities can provide residents with clean and safe drinking water – a vital lifeline that too often we take for granted. Folks who grew up in small towns understand, as I do, that clean water builds rural communities, helping make them stronger, more likely to thrive, and more protected for generations to come – and this bill will help

accomplish that goal."

"We are grateful for Sen. Heitkamp's help and assistance to the country's more than 50,000 small and rural communities that are trying to provide safe and clean water to their citizens every day," says Eric Volk, executive director of the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association. "The senator's bill ensures that the most helpful and environmentally beneficial initiatives are available to rural communities. This approach is truly unique in the federal effort to protect the environment, because it accomplishes progressive environmental protection with the support of the local communities. Small communities comprise more than 90 percent of the water supplies in the country. However, due to a lack of economies of scale, it is often more difficult for small towns to comply with federal rules, afford the latest technology, and have access to technical experts."

Heitkamp has long worked to foster relationships encouraging increased resources and assistance for rural areas. In November, she met with Rural Utilities Service Acting Administrator Jasper Schneider to discuss the need for targeted investments, like water infrastructure, in rural communities across the nation. On the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Heitkamp serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy, which oversees the Rural Utilities Service.

The 2014 Farm Bill, which Heitkamp played a leading role in crafting, places a strong emphasis on supporting rural development projects. The bill authorizes programs that help upgrade and improve rural water systems, invest in expanding rural high-speed Internet, provide loans to consumers to improve energy efficiency through the new Rural Energy Savings Program, and reauthorize several other existing programs that are critical to supporting economic and community development in rural America.

demolition, property acquisition/relocation, structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, dry flood proofing, generators, flood risk reduction projects, structural and non-structural retrofitting, safe room construction, infrastructure retrofitting, soil stabilization, wildfire mitigation, utility protection, and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan creation/ updating. Based on previous grant awards and sub-applicant interest, the Department of Emergency Services would like to focus on projects dealing with utility protection, critical facility generators, and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan creation/ updating whenever possible, but all project types listed above can be applied for through the Department of Emergency Services.

The Department of Emergency Services looks forward to working with applicants that apply for federal funding under the pre-disaster mitigation or flood mitigation assistance programs, and is available to provide technical assistance as needed. Applications are due no later than Aug. 15. Those interested in applying for any pre-disaster mitigation activities can contact State Mitigation Officer Paul Messner at 701-328-8107 or Hazard Mitigation Specialist Justin Messner at 620-803-8254. They will be able to assist applicants in obtaining access to the grants.des.nd.gov and Mitigation eGrants system websites, creating a Notice of Interest, completing the grant application, and answering any general programmatic questions.