

Vincent Archer, 87

March 27, 1929 - June 26, 2016

FORT COLLINS, CO —

Vincent Carlyle Archer, formerly of Avoca, passed away on June 26 in Fort Collins, CO, at the age of 87. Vince was the principal of the AvoHa high school for 17 years. Prior to that, he was principal of the high schools in Newell and Lakota.

Vince was born in Scenic, SD on March 27, 1929. He endured a difficult childhood marked by frequent relocation and the sudden disappearance of his mother when he was eight years old, after which he was sent to live with relatives and eventually to an orphanage. A high school dropout, Vince enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, where he served as a Navy corpsman assigned to the Marines, with overseas tours to South Korea and Okinawa. While in the Navy he earned his high school diploma and began taking college courses. After his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1960, Vince attended and graduated from Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, SD. He then taught high school at Remsen for two years. He next enrolled in graduate school at the University of Iowa, where he earned both a Masters and an Educational Specialist degree, after which he began his career as a high school principal.

Vince married Bernetta Jiricek in 1950 and they remained together until her death in 2011. In speaking of the early days of their marriage, Bernetta often remarked upon how determined he was to pursue higher education despite the many challenges that entailed. Friends and family members remember how faithfully Vince drove to Elk Horn every day to visit his wife in the nursing home there during the last two years of her life.

Vince's avocations included the extensive remodeling of every house he ever owned and the woodworking crafts he produced in his garage workshop, such as antique wooden cars and the small chests he made for young members of Trinity Lutheran Church upon their confirmation.

Vince was preceded in death by his wife Bernetta, all seven of his siblings, and all three of her siblings. Survivors are sons Neil (Sue) Archer of Champaign, IL; Jeffrey (Dorothy) Archer of Fort Collins, CO; Bradley (Kris) Archer of Iowa City; and four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, August 13 at Graceland Cemetery in Avoca, followed by a lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church.

