



Herman Solem-WHS 1936-Inducted 2023- Military/Penelogy

Herman Stanley Solem, 86, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away on July 4, 2005 at Sioux Valley Hospital.

Born in Nanson, North Dakota on February 2, 1919, he was the son of Herman and Julia Solem. After moving to Sioux Falls, Herman graduated from Washington High School and, subsequently, earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Augustana College in 1941.

After graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps / U.S. Air Force and began a distinguished thirty-year career. While in the Air Force, Herman spent twelve years as a fighter pilot with numerous combat tours abroad. Later, he also served as project officer for Air Attack Operations in the Middle East, operational planning officer at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., Assistant Air Attache at the American Embassy in London, England, logistics director at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Alabama, and project director for aerospace research at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio.

He retired from the Air Force in 1969 as a Lieutenant Colonel and, over his career, he had been awarded the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with twenty-three oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart. During this time, he also earned his Master of Arts degree in Foreign Relations.

In February of 1971, Herman joined the staff of the South Dakota State Penitentiary where he held several positions before being appointed Warden in 1976. He served in this position for thirteen years during which time he distinguished himself through his innovative rehabilitation programs, exemplary organizational skills, and selfless devotion to duty and staff. For his achievements, commitment, and job excellence, he was awarded the Satnan-Canary Award for improvement in Corrections in South Dakota. After his retirement, his career contributions were recognized by the dedication of the Herman S. Solem Public Safety Center in Pierre, South Dakota.

Herman was also actively involved in the Sioux Falls community and served as President of the Augustana Alumni Association, President of the Congregation at First Lutheran Church, and an active member of the Lion's Club. In 1991, he was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from Augustana College.

Herman is survived by his wife, Mae Arlene "Maizie" Rogness Solem of Sioux Falls, his daughter Margaret (Mike) Foley of Seattle, Washington, his son, Jeff (Linda) Solem, of Atlanta, Georgia, his granddaughter, Callan Solem, of Colt's Neck, New Jersey, his grandson, Austin Solem, of Atlanta, Georgia and his brother Richard (Jackie) Solem of Riverside, California.