



Andrew "Andy" Vanvig

March 28, 1922 - February 18, 2016

Andrew Vanvig, Professor of Agricultural Economics Emeritus, University of Wyoming, age 93, formerly of Beach, North Dakota, passed away on Thursday, February 18, 2016 at his home in Bismarck, North Dakota. Visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. until 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the First Lutheran Church in Beach. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the First Lutheran Church with Pastor Dana Holter officiating. Interment will follow in the Beach Lutheran Cemetery. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

The son of immigrant parents from Norway who homesteaded in North Dakota, Andrew was raised on a farm in Golden Valley County. He attended public schools in the area and graduated from Golva High School in 1938. He received his BS degree from NDSU in 1942, his MS degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and earned his PhD degree from the University of Minnesota in 1951.

Andrew greatly enjoyed farming and spent as much time as possible farming near Beach with his two brothers as he continued his education.

He began his academic career as assistant professor of agricultural economics at the University of Arizona-Tucson in 1952. In 1957 at the age of 35, he was appointed head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Wyoming. He served as department head for 25 years and during his tenure the department grew several fold both in size of the faculty

and the number of student majors. In 1972, he was listed in Outstanding Educators of America. He thoroughly enjoyed his contacts with students, and was always interested in watching their career development after graduation. Andrew's major research interests were in agricultural finance, international trade and the farm and ranch real estate market. His annual publication on the real estate market was widely used by banks and other lenders as well as farmers and ranchers. He helped organize and establish the Western Agricultural Lenders Institute, which sponsored an annual conference for bankers and other lenders.

Andrew was also active in professional associations and served a term as president of the Western Agricultural Economics Association and, for several years, as chairman of the Western Agricultural Economics Research Council. In the course of his career he had opportunities for professional contacts in other countries. In 1958 he was one of ten young professionals to receive a travel fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation to participate in the International Conference of Agricultural Economists held in Mysore City, India. In the summer of 1965 he served as a consultant to the Minister of Agriculture in Afghanistan regarding irrigation and other agricultural developments. During this time he also helped establish the agricultural economics department at Kabul University. He also facilitated the ability of Afghan students to pursue graduate study at universities in the United States.

Following his retirement from the University of Wyoming in 1991, Andrew and his wife Connie became more actively involved in his farming operation near Beach, producing durum, winter and spring wheat, lentils, peas and alfalfa under a no-till farming practice. They enjoyed alternating their time between summers farming in Beach, and winters in Arizona.

"Retirement" was not really a word in his vocabulary. He loved farming as much as he enjoyed his academic career and he continued to manage his farming operation up until the time of his death.

He was an avid outdoorsman and in earlier years hunted big horn sheep, moose, elk, deer, and antelope in the Rocky Mountains of Wyoming. He also

enjoyed golf, fishing, and hunting pheasants with his yellow Labrador, King, and riding his quarter horse, Bar.

Andrew is survived by his wife Connie, brother-in-law John (Joyce) Lunde, and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; who offered loving support and help in his final years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Martha and Sivert Vanvig; brothers, Thomas Vanvig and Lester Vanvig; and sisters, Gudrun Hensley, Minnie Vanvig, and Solveig Josephson.

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred to Western North Dakota Synod ELCA, a ministry fund to provide scholarships to seminarians from Western North Dakota: www.wndsynod.org; or a charity of your choice.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Beach Lutheran Cemetery

Beach, ND 58621

Previous Events

Service

FEB 24. 11:00 AM (MT)

First Lutheran Church
225 2nd Ave SE
Beach, ND 58621

Visitation

FEB 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

First Lutheran Church
225 2nd Ave SE
Beach, ND 58621

Tribute Wall



“ To the Vanvig family, I was Andrew’s former student. When I went to UWyo in 1974 for my Masters degree he was the one who welcomed me to the then Department of Agriculture Economics. I graduated in 1976. I would like to extend my thanks to Andrew, his wife and staff for the hospitality during my memorable stay then.

In July 2023, after 47 years I had the opportunity to revisit UWyo. I was able to meet the new Head of Department; Ben Rashford. He too was friendly and helpful to me and my wife.

Thank you very much Andrew. I will always remember you. May you rest in peace.

*Tunku Mahmud bin Tunku Yahya
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

Tunku Mahmud - December 11, 2023 at 03:58 AM



“ *Andrew "Andy" Vanvig*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Unfortunately I never met Andy, but I would like to thank Andy and his family for their continued support of UW. I was just notified that I've been awarded the 2021 Vanvig award for faculty in ANR. I went looking for more information about Andy and found this page. It's an honor to receive an award in his name and, along with all the students that have been supported, I wanted to expression my sincerest appreciation to his family.

David Fay

David Fay - March 01, 2021 at 12:07 PM



“ Connie and family....I was saddened to hear of Andy's death. I knew Andy both when I was a student at UW and later when we were colleagues on the faculty. I, and many other, had enormous respect for him. He was as solid as they came. May all of us be so lucky as to live such a long, productive, and fulfilling life.

Sam Cordes - February 26, 2016 at 12:21 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Dr. Vanvig on several projects when I joined the UW faculty in 1987. Andy was a wonderful mentor and will be missed by many. Our condolences to Connie and the Vanvig family. You remain in our prayers.
John Hewlett and family.

John Hewlett - February 26, 2016 at 10:55 AM

RC

“ Connie,
Joyce and I were sad to hear of Andy's death. He had a major impact on our lives and many others. He was a kind and gentle man who shepherded his faculty so that they too could become successful. He touched many and will be missed.
Dick & Joyce Clark

Richard Clark - February 22, 2016 at 04:36 PM

RS

“ God Bless Andy and his Family. What fond memories of working the potato fields both hoeing and picking in the late 40's and early 50's...and those delicious meals Mrs. Vanvig and her Daughters served. It was a very special time for many of us Beach Kids. The Vanvigs were and are very special people, and the world is a little better for them. God Bless You all, Rod Snow

Rodney Snow - February 22, 2016 at 03:31 PM

CR

“ College of Agriculture & Natural Resources colleagues and friends send their condolences to Mrs. Vanvig and family. Dr. Vanvig was highly respected in the college and remains so today.

College of Ag & Natural Resources - February 22, 2016 at 03:02 PM

DM

“ Connie and Family - Our heartfelt and sincere condolences - Andy's many contributions are constant reminders of his generosity and wisdom. He will always have a special place in our hearts and minds. Dale and Linda Menkhaus

Dale and Linda Menkhaus - February 21, 2016 at 04:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew "Andy" Vanvig.*



February 21, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Andrew "Andy" Vanvig.*



February 21, 2016 at 11:15 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you Connie.
Paul and Patricia Thompson*

Paul & Patricia Thompson - February 20, 2016 at 09:29 PM