Dan Hoyt  April 11, 2015

March 29, 1918 — Aug. 11, 2015

Daniel B. Hoyt, 97, passed away Aug. 11, 2015, at Saint Anne Extended Healthcare.

He was born to Emma and Fred Hoyt March 29, 1918, in Pierre, S.D. He attended elementary school and high school in Pierre. He graduated with a BA degree from Dakota Wesleyan University in June, 1940. He earned a MA degree in 1949, and a PhD degree in history in 1958, from the University of Iowa.

He began his teaching career at high schools in Kadoka, S.D., and Pierre. At Logan High School in La Crosse, Dan was a history teacher in the years 1949 to 1951.

In 1951, Dan came to Winona State University, where he was a professor of history until his retirement in 1984. During periods of that time, he also served as history department chairman and Dean of Graduate Studies. His greatest pleasure was as a classroom teacher.

During World War II, Dan made the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach in France. It then became his responsibility to set up the first refuge and displaced persons center in Normandy from June 18, 1944, to July 3, 1944. This refuge center became a model for future centers. For this work, Dan was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French government. He was 26 years old.

Dan married Dorothy Lohmiller on Aug. 31, 1963, in Rushford. His survivors include Dorothy; his daughter, Danielle and her husband, Steven Thomsen of Lawrence, Kan.; his son, Antoine (Tony) and his wife, Bonita; and Tony and Bonita’s children, who are Jonathan (Natalie,) Rebecca (Eric) Madrid, Jessica (Ross) Gaines and David, all of Houston, Texas; Dan’s great-grandchildren are Megan Geiling, Amos and Lee Madrid and Matthew Gaines.

A visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 14, at Fawcett Junker Funeral Home. A private graveside service will be held in Woodlawn Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to Alzheimer’s Disease Research, 22512 Gateway Center Drive, Clarksburg, Md., 20871, or donor’s choice.

Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett Junker Funeral Home, Winona, and Fountain City, Wis.