



REMARKS IN HONOR OF
BOB AND JAN McCALLUM
SONS OF NORWAY
MAY 17, 2014
Presented by Karen Jensen

I feel so honored to be here today to help Sverdrup Lodge honor Bob and Jan McCallum. It was only three years ago that my husband Lowell and I sat in the audience as Jan introduced us at the 2011 Syttende Mai Celebration. We felt very honored then and I feel privileged now as I do the same for Bob and Jan.

By the way, Lowell thinks that Bob should feel very proud that a man with a name that starts with Mc can be honored by the Norwegians.

Robert McCallum was born in Rossburn, Manitoba, Canada. His family moved to the United States when he was nine years old, and in 1960 he became a naturalized citizen in Minot. His mother, Mary Mandziuk, was Ukrainian and Polish, and his father, Robert Martin McCallum was Scottish, English, and Irish.

He graduated from Scobey, Montana, High School, and earned a degree in Business Education from Minot State University. He taught business subjects at Park River High School, and then entered the hardware business with his father-in-law.

During his time in business, he served as president of the Bismarck Downtowners Association, the North Dakota Retail Association, and the Minnesota-Dakotas Retail Hardware Association. Currently he is active and is a past president of the Bismarck Kiwanis Club.

Janet Anderson McCallum was born in Minot, and has lived in North Dakota all of her life. She is proud of her Scandinavian heritage. Her mother, Jennie Rygg, was 100% Norwegian, and grew up in Clifford, North Dakota. Her grandparents emigrated from Breim, in the Nordfjord area north of Bergen, Norway in 1902 and 1904. Her father, Alton Anderson, was 50% Swedish, along with English, Scottish, Irish, and German.

In 1933 her father and her grandfather opened a hardware store in Minot, and in 1938 a second store opened on Fifth Street in Bismarck. That same year they affiliated with the Ace Hardware Corporation. In 1956 the Bismarck store was moved to a new building on Fourth Street built by Jan's father.

Bob and Janet were married in 1965 and moved to Bismarck in 1966, and Bob operated the Bismarck store for 30 years, with Janet assisting part time for most of those years. In 1996 when they closed their store, it was the fifth oldest Ace Hardware store in the nation under continuous family ownership.

Following their retirement from the hardware business, they were seasonally employed by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Association in Medora.

Bob and Janet have been active members of Sverdrup Lodge since they were invited to membership by Lorna Tyson in 1992. Bob has served a three-year term as a trustee of the lodge, and helped with painting the stabburs at the Sons of Norway Park.

They have two daughters, both living in the Twin Cities. Laura is the deputy news director at Minnesota Public Radio. She has one son, Wyatt, and is married with two stepchildren, Bella and Max. Lisa teaches English as a second language to adult refugees and immigrants. She has traveled to all seven continents and to over 40 countries.

Janet is active in her P.E.O. chapter and Current Events Club, and has served on the Salvation Army Advisory Board for 30 years.

In 2008 Bob and Janet enjoyed a memorable trip to the Scandinavian countries of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, and their favorite city was Bergen, Norway.

Bob and Jan are two of the most caring people we know and are always willing to help when someone is going through a difficult time.

In conclusion, I want to congratulate Bob and Jan on this very significant honor today. It is our way of saying that we love and respect you both. Thank you very much for all that you contribute to our lives.