Hugo J. Strom was born July 7, 1919 at his parents’ homestead in Oliver Township, Williams County, North Dakota to Steve and Dorthea (Joost) Strom. As a young boy the family moved to Williston and then to Springbrook where he started school. In October 1929 the family moved back to Williston where Hugo graduated from Williston High School in 1939. He lived in the same house from age ten until he died.

In 1939 Hugo began working for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Snyder Theater. In 1940 he joined Company E of the North Dakota National Guard Infantry, which was inducted into the Federal Service February 10, 1941. In late 1941 he was discharged from the National Guard and the Army due to a knee injury. He returned to Williston and began employment with the Great Northern Railroad. In 1942 he reenlisted in the Armed Forces, taking his basic training as a non-commissioned officer at Camp Wolters, Texas. In early 1943 he was transferred to infantry officers’ school at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of his training, Hugo was assigned to a unit of infantry officers in New York, NY. As a captain, his unit was then sent to China to be assigned to Chinese combat troops. He was the only American officer assigned to a Chinese regiment, with his own interpreter, a radio man, and the donkey that carried the radio. This unit was in Yunnan Province in southwest China and at the Salween River, and Burma Campaigns. He was in the southeast China Campaign until the war ended. Hugo arrived back in the United States on October 30, 1945 and was discharged on March 27, 1946 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. In 2005 his service story was recorded by students of Williston State College and his story was featured in the North Dakota Horizons magazine.

After discharge, he returned to work with the Great Northern Railroad. On June 8, 1947 he was united in marriage to Carol A. Johnson of Alkabo, North Dakota at Writing Rock Church. He worked at the railroad as well as with the US Postal Service and raised four daughters. He and his wife, Carol, worked very hard to ensure that his daughters received a college education.

Upon retiring, Hugo and Carol enjoyed traveling the country together. He was a member of First Lutheran Church in Williston. Hugo was a life member of the Elks, the VFW, the Moose Lodge, and the American Legion. He loved to garden and raise geraniums.

He is survived by daughters Marjorie Strom of Seattle, WA, and Kathy and Connie Strom of St. Paul, MN, brother Walter Strom of Alhambra, CA, and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sisters Grace and Gerda, wife Carol in August 2005, and daughter Lori Jo in 1978.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

The Twenty-Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over, surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever.

IN MEMORY OF
HUGO J. STROM
DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH
JULY 7, 1919
OLIVER TOWNSHIP, WILLIAMS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA
DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH
APRIL 7, 2008
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA
FUNERAL SERVICE
10:00 AM, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA
CLERGY
REV. MARTIN MOCK
MUSICIANS
SANDI BLIKRE ~ ORGANIST
CASKETBEARERS
WAYNE HERMAN
GARY RUST
TOM JACOBSON
ROB RUST
GEORGE SENTI
DARRELL TROGSTAD
HONORARY BEARERS
ALL OF HUGO’S FORMER RAILROAD & POST OFFICE COWORKERS
ALL OF HUGO’S MANY FRIENDS
MILITARY HONORS
WILLISTON VETERANS’ HONOR GUARD
INTERMENT
RIVERVIEW CEMETERY
WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA
ARRANGEMENTS
FULKERSON FUNERAL HOME
WWW.FULKERSONS.COM