

# Vincent Nicholas Kokenge

September 12, 1923 - September 28, 2016

Sioux Falls, SD ~ Vincent N. Kokenge, age 93, died on Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at Sanford Hospice Foundation Cottage in Sioux Falls, SD.

Funeral services will begin at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 7, 2016 at George Boom Funeral Home in Sioux Falls with burial to follow at Hills of Rest Cemetery in Sioux Falls. Visitation will begin at 5:00 PM on Thursday at the funeral home with the family present to greet friends from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial donation.

Vincent Nicholas was born on September 12, 1923 in Sioux County Iowa to Joseph and Catherine (Kellen) Kokenge.

He was raised and received his education in Sioux County attending and graduating from Paullina High School in 1941.

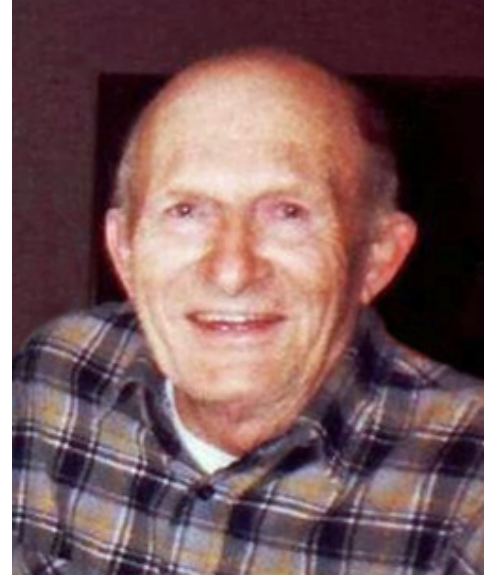
It was as a child that Vince developed a love of baseball.

Vince was the true definition of a southpaw. In baseball he threw a mean breaking curveball. Playing ball out of Granville Iowa Catholic High School, Vince eventually signed to play minor league baseball with the New York Yankees organization in Quincy Illinois in the summer of 1946. That dream of the "biggs" did not come to pass, but he did spend several years in Iowa and Nebraska as a baseball player. As a pitcher for the Sioux City Chiefs he enjoyed ringing up K's right here in Sioux Falls against the Canaries, east of the 10th street viaduct. From baseball Vince moved on to throwing a hook from the left side as a bowler. In the 60's he made many appearances on the popular Big Bowl TV Show with Dave Dedrick.

In 1989 Vince was inducted into the South Dakota Bowlers Association Hall of Fame.

Upon the outbreak of WWII, Vince served stateside as a mechanic with the United States Army Air Corps.

He helped with the maintenance of the "Flying Fortresses" the B 17 and B 29 bombers.



Born: September 12, 1923  
Death: September 28, 2016

Vince was united in marriage with Delores Kroeger on November 10, 1947 in Sioux City, Iowa.

The family lived in Minnesota until making their home in Sioux Falls, SD in 1961.

Vince and Delores were blessed with seven children.

In 1967 he started Kokenge Painting Service, a business he owned and operated until his retirement in 1988.

Vince enjoyed fishing, hunting, spending time outdoors or the lake cabin and watching and cheering on the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Cubs.

Above all he loved spending time with his family and friends.

Vince was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, great-great grandfather, brother, uncle and friend who will be deeply missed.

Grateful for having shared his life are his wife, Delores Kokenge of Sioux Falls, SD; six children: Mike (Marcia) Kokenge, Sioux Falls SD, Larry (Colleen) Kokenge, Sioux Falls SD, Kathy (Jim) Lang, Sioux Falls SD, Cindi (Tony) Ruggiero, Livermore CA, Pam (Jeff) Cox, Sioux Falls SD and Ron (Barb) Kokenge, Sioux Falls SD; daughter-in-law, Michelle Ward, Rapid City, SD; 22 grandchildren; 40 great grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Vince is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Catherine Kokenge; son, Douglas Kokenge; and two brothers: Raymond and Virgil Kokenge.