



CLASS OF

1968

BILL SORENSEN

Bill Sorensen has lived his entire life wide open to its possibilities and adventures. A 1968 graduate of Bismarck High, he received nine varsity letters and was involved in student government. Bill attended Bismarck Junior College and graduated from Concordia College. His involvement in government, fine arts, and sports at an early age, contributed greatly to his life's adventures.

Bill was the youngest person elected to the Bismarck City Commission, serving the city for 24 years. Elected Mayor of Bismarck in 1990 and serving three terms, Bill promoted city tax initiatives that brought the expansion of the Civic Center, restoration of the Belle Mehus Auditorium, the building of the BHS and CHS gyms and the Community Bowl. Bill served two terms in the ND House of Representatives. He is a past President of the ND League of Cities. In 1985, he was named one of five outstanding North Dakotans, and was named the Outstanding Elected Official of North Dakota in 2000. A love and passion for North Dakota and its future led to countless volunteer hours with groups of all ages.

Bill began his career as a teacher. In 1978, he founded Business Information Systems Inc. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for Extend America. In the course of his career, he purchased nine different businesses focused on computer systems and broadband communications.

Bill formed Civic Arena Promotions to encourage activities at the Bismarck Civic Center. He was co-owner of the Dakota Rattlers Baseball Team; co-founded the International Basketball Association; owned the Wizards' Basketball team; managed World Boxing Champion and Boxing Hall of Fame inductee Virgil Hill; and was involved in bringing the Broadway Series to Bismarck. He is currently an advisor for the Sleepy Hollow Board of Directors. His love of music led him to write lyrics for his friend Joel Gilbertson. Many of these songs have been recorded.

Born with a great sense of humor, Bill has been involved in performance most of his life. A high school hobby of juggling led to a second career as a magician. For over thirty years, Bill has been an entertainer in Medora with the 4M Review and served as co-host for the Medora Musical in 2013. His talents as a speaker and performer led him to present at over two thousand corporate events.

Bill's faith and family are cornerstones in his life. He is currently serving as president of his church's congregation and has been very involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes throughout his life. Bill Sorensen's richest blessings are his four daughters, Medora, Tana, Jenna and Tricia, his sons-in law and grandchildren.

"Dreams are there to pursue. Limits are there to exceed."

