

CLASS OF



1966

MARK THOMPSON

Mark Thompson grew up in Bismarck, graduating from BHS in 1966. He participated in many school activities including football, basketball, track, concert band, and symphony orchestra. He continued his education at the University of North Dakota where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering and a commission in the United States Air Force. As a navigator of KC-135 aircraft, he traveled the world from Southeast Asia to Europe navigating primarily by the use of a sextant.

He returned home to Bismarck in 1975 to manage H.A. Thompson & Sons, the company his grandfather started in 1908. As a third-generation owner, he is very proud that the company continues to thrive and expand throughout the state. His daughters, Jennifer and Tracy, both BHS graduates, are now assuming management responsibilities.

Recognizing the tremendous opportunities he was given and valuable life-lessons learned through his participation in team activities, athletics and music, Mark and his wife Claudia, became benefactors to many organizations in the Bismarck community, notably the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Bismarck Mandan Symphony Orchestra, Bismarck Aquatics Center, Community Bowl, Municipal Ballpark, Bismarck Public Schools Foundation and Sleepy Hollow Theatre and Arts Park.

After experiencing a family tragedy involving their granddaughter, Mark and Claudia realized they could help other families facing similar situations.

In 2009, they led the drive to change Sanford's pediatric unit to a child-friendly Children's Hospital, which was one of their most satisfying philanthropic experiences. With their financial support of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, they continue to make a difference in the lives of others. The ability to give support to things that make a difference in people's lives is a true blessing.

Mark's greatest accomplishments are a long, happy marriage, raising two wonderful daughters, growing the family business and carrying its legacy into the second century.

His words of wisdom,
"Plan the flight and fly the plan, but always have a plan B."

