**Warren Heyer Success – SD Rehabilitation Center for the Blind**

Warren Heyer 96, was raised on a farm in Madison, Minnesota until 3rd grade, when the family relocated to George, IA. After graduation from high school, he moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan to work in the Ford motor plant. However, shortly after his move, his father suffered a heart attack and Warren returned home to farm in his father’s absence. In 1945, Warren was drafted into the United States Navy because of WWII and was on the USS Oriskany. After serving in the military, Warren returned to college and obtained a business degree and began working in Sioux Falls for the electric company. In 1970, Warren started a real estate firm called Heyer Realty and after 10 years he decided to start a business selling highway equipment. Warren retired in 1987 but liked to keep busy so he worked part-time until his vision failed him.

Warren developed Macular Degeneration in his left eye in 2008 and had a blood clot in his right eye in October of 2012 causing him to lose his vision in that eye. Determined not to let his vision slow him down, he attended the Hines VA Blind Rehabilitation Center in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2020. Warren wanted to learn to use assistive technology, as well as all the skills of blindness. In 2015, he worked with **SD Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired** who encouraged him to attend the **South Dakota Rehabilitation Center for the Blind** for computer training. He learned to use programs such as Dolphin Guide, an iPhone and a notetaker. Warren also loves attending most First Friday walk-in clinics at the Rehabilitation Center where he stays up-to-date regarding relevant and new technology.

Warren isn’t only interested in technology, he’s participated in the Senior Olympics in Omaha (2016), and Alaska (2019) earning 2 gold medals, 3 silver medals, and 1 bronze medal. He has also participated in blind skiing activities with the VA. if you would like to see Warren in action, check out his video titled, WWII Warren Heyer Conquers the slopes 2019 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyVzRa57HT8>). Warren also loves woodworking and makes beautiful bowls, baskets, bird houses, and many other things!

Warren was married to his lovely wife Jennie who was an avid doll maker, but sadly passed away on Memorial Day in 2012. Warren has a zest for life and doesn’t let his vision loss slow him down. He is a happy and pleasant person who is encouraging to others as a role model.



Warren Heyer, 96, shows the wood items he created.