

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT VIC UTTKE

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** celebrates business success. This award is given to a business or individual that has supported Spearfish for over twenty years and has been a continuous member of the Spearfish Area Chamber of Commerce.

Vic Uttke moved to Spearfish in May of 1994 and purchased a professional office space. He later built a new office building adjacent to the existing building, which together comprise the Northern Hills Plaza Complex. These buildings provide space for many Spearfish businesses and new start up companies.

Vic joined the Chamber in January of 1995, and he and the Landmark Realty office have been continuous members since that time.

Shortly there after he purchased an old abandoned freight agency building and property on Colorado Avenue, and with the dynamic partnership of Joe Jorgenson, Jim Benning, and Steve Williams, designed and built a new beautiful professional office condominium, now called Park Place Plaza.

After purchasing the historic Hilltop Motel, his team gutted and remodeled the structure to create a modern professional office building. Vic is always looking for ways to enhance Spearfish's Main Street.

Vic was also the initiator in a vision to purchase the original site of Walmart, which was vacant at the time. Vic worked hard with his partners and the City of Spearfish to see this eventually become the Spearfish Recreation and Aquatic Center.

More recently, Vic was part of the ownership group who is developing The Village at Creekside, a beautiful multi-use development on the banks of Spearfish Creek.

Outside of business, Vic has been an active and faithful member of the Spearfish Kiwanis club for nearly 24 years. He was part of the original visionary group and provided leadership in the start of the Good Shepherd Clinic. In his continued vision to see needs in the community, he also served as a founding member of the Spearfish Foundation for Public Education. With Vic's strong support of education, he has also been a long time supporter of Black Hills State University and the Yellow Jacket Foundation.

Vic was instrumental in bringing the simulcast event called "Leadercast" to Spearfish each May. This event serves and equips leaders in all areas of our community and motivates them to a higher purpose, higher morals in business, and a higher ethical standard in conduct.

Last but certainly not least is Vic's love and leadership to his family. Married for 60 years and being a strong voice of influence in his family makes him a wonderful cornerstone in both business and family. Even at 86 he continues to play an active role in the daily decisions, and provide a vision for the future, as Boss, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather.

He has made many contributions both economically and visually to better the place he calls home. He loves this community and the people in it and continues to have a vision for what "could be" to make Spearfish better, and to provide a bright future for generations to come.