

Tales of heroism and self sacrifice during the hectic hour during and immediately following the inundation of Rapid City June 9th and 10th are almost without number. Most of those who performed such deeds will go unrecognized...their only reward the self satisfaction they must feel for their efforts. Like the unknown soldier they deserve our undying gratitude.

If any honor role is to be prepared though, there are some names I would like to nominate for a place near the top. They are the men who have been quietly carrying out the unwanted and gruesome task of searching the debris and rubble left in the wake of the flood waters for the bodies of victims. It is a grim task; a dirty and often dangerous job. The only thing that keeps these men at it, is the knowledge that it must be done.

The search and recovery operation is under the overall supervision of the Pennington County Sheriffs Office. The search and recovery team is headed up by an Army Major from the Sixth Army Advisory Group who was in Rapid City to observe the South Dakota National Guard Training exercises. The calm competence of Major Robert Disney is a major factor in the success of his team. His logical organization has insured the most efficient use of the manpower available. His dogged determination is assurance that the work will be carried to completion.

There are thirteen other names to be added to this special honor role. Determined men...volunteers for this most undesirable of all jobs. Men serving their community with selfless devotion.

Three Rapid City Police Patrolemen...John J. Wainman...Mark Jones...Harold Plooster.

Three regular army officers: Retired Lt. Col. Charles L. Childs. his son Captain Charles L. Childs, Jr., A student at the School of Mines and Technology...Captain Craig H. Lingle, also a student at Tech.

Four National Guardsmen: Sgt. Aubrey H. Sylvester of Yankton... Sgt. Darrel A. Heines of Yankton...Sgt. Curtis D. Peterka of Yankton...Specialist Four Randall Jastrom of Rosholt.

Three Rapid City civilians must also be included: Dave Osterholt...Don Strachan...Ray Cornford.

We commend these men for undertaking voluntarily a most unwellcome but most necessary job and serving with selfless devotion. I add my personal salute.

Thank you.