

04-26-1964 Belle Fourche SD – George B. Driscoll – Drowned when waders filled up

### **ODMP Remembers...**

<http://www.odmp.org/officer/17327-conservation-officer-george-b-driscoll>



### **Conservation Officer George B. Driscoll**

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, South Dakota

End of Watch: Sunday, April 26, 1964

Officer Driscoll drowned while attempting to retrieve his boat near the Orman Dam near Belle Fourche.

The officer was working near his boat when he noticed that it was drifting away. Even though he was wearing chest waders, he entered the water in an attempt to retrieve the boat. The water was deeper than he expected and the weight of the water that entered his waders prevented him from getting back to the surface. Others who were at the scene attempted to rescue him but were unsuccessful.

### **Lost Game Warden Memorialized**

<http://www.bigfishtackle.com/cgi-bin/gforum/gforum.cgi?post=133789>

PIERRE, S.D. – Just days within the 40th anniversary of his death, South Dakota Game Warden George B. Driscoll can no longer be called "the forgotten game warden."

On May 12, officer Driscoll was permanently added to the list of other South Dakota law enforcement officers who have died while in service to the people of this state. The law enforcement officer's memorial is located along the shores of Capitol Lake in Pierre and includes the names of 51 other fallen officers.

On April 26, 1964, Butte County Game Warden George Driscoll drowned while working on Orman Dam near Belle Fourche, according to Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer Supervisor Don McCrea.

"Officer Driscoll was working on the shoreline when he noticed that his work boat had begun to drift from shore," McCrea said. "Attempting to retrieve his boat while

wearing chest waders, he encountered water that was deeper than anticipated. Attempts to rescue him were unsuccessful."

Memorials were not yet established in the 1960s, and over the years, Officer Driscoll became known as the "forgotten warden" to those who had worked with him.

"It seems that only a few remaining GFP old-timers had any memory of George," McCrea said. "Even those within the agency who are approaching 30-years of service had no knowledge of this fallen officer. The story of his life and death resurfaced only a short time ago, and we now have the opportunity to recognize and honor his life, service and ultimate sacrifice. Game Warden George Driscoll may be gone, but he will no longer be forgotten."

McCrea noted that although Officer Driscoll didn't perish due to a felonious act or while in hot pursuit of a criminal violator, it is still important to remember that he lost his life in the performance of his assigned duties while serving the people of the State of South Dakota.

Driscoll's death was the first instance since wardens were appointed in 1893 that a South Dakota Game Warden died while in the performance of their duties. In 1979, Assistant Regional Supervisor Ronald Brandt was killed in a vehicle accident near Sioux Falls.