Marvin Glenn Knittel, 87, of Rochester, Minnesota, died on June 3, 2021.

Marv was born in 1933 and raised on a farm in South Dakota. He attended a one-room rural school and graduated from high school in Gregory, SD in 1951. He completed an undergraduate degree in teaching in 1955 and MA in Speech Pathology in 1958. He completed his Master of Education in Missouri in 1961 and a Doctor of Education degree from the University of South Dakota in 1963. He did his psychodrama training with John Nolte.

Marv married Donna Lueck in 1955 and moved with their two children to Kearney in 1963 where he started his career at the University of Nebraska (UNK). During his 30-year tenure at UNK, he served as a professor emeritus, the department chair of Educational Psychology and Counseling, interim president and vice president of Academic Affairs. For the final 10 years of his time at UNK, he returned to the classroom. His passion was teaching and educating young counselors. Marv taught classes in psychodrama, counseling theories and methods, group counseling, and practicum. He published in a variety of professional journals but was most excited about the book he wrote on how to apply the group counseling methods of psychodrama to counseling with individuals one-on-one. The book uses eight case studies about issues ranging from sexual abuse, depression, aging, family problems to unresolved guilt to search for meaning to demonstrate how to use psychodrama one-on-one. He also wrote the book “One Hand Clapping,” an autobiography and memoir about his life with one arm. The book shares the psychological adjustments he experienced from the time his arm was amputated at the age of five throughout his life. He wrote two books after retirement. The first was an autobiography in 2006 and “Counseling and Drama: Psychodrama a’ Deux” in 2009. The counseling book was translated and published in Taiwan in 2012.

He was presented the Heines-Pratt award in 1987. Marv retired in 1993 and then spent time visiting five children and eight grandchildren throughout the country.

After 20 years of retirement, Marv was invited to give the keynote address to the Taiwan Association of Psychodrama Jan 26, 2013 where he also conducted six days of psychodrama workshops. This invitation was the result of his books and years of experience teaching psychodrama at the University of Nebraska.

Marv was a longtime member of First Lutheran Church of Kearney where he sang in the choir. Marv enjoyed writing, singing, traveling, bicycling and his family. He published three books, many articles and had a blog with Psychology Today magazine.