OBITUARY | *Vada Jean Doerr, 1930-2026*

Vada Doerr, age 95 of Hettinger, ND passed away on January 31, 2026 at the Western Horizons Care Center, surrounded by her family.

Service of Remembrance was Friday, February 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. MT at the United Methodist Church in Hettinger, ND. Pastor Paul Plueddeman officiated and burial was at the Hettinger Cemetery. Visitation was Thursday, Feb. 5, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by a Family and Friends Service at 5:00 p.m., all at the Centennial Chapel of Evanson Jensen Funeral Homes in Hettinger, ND.

Vada Jean Stocking was born on November 26, 1930, in Hettinger, ND to Edwin "Clare" and Lena Stocking. She was the youngest of nine children. Vada attended school in Hettinger, ND. After graduation, she married her high school sweetheart Kenneth "Kenny" Doerr on October 9, 1950. This union was blest with six children, Barb, Gary, Larry, Keith, Delmar,

and Shelly. While Kenny was in the service, Vada lived with her parents. Upon his return from the military, they purchased a farm in the Lodgepole area where they farmed and ranched until they moved to Hettinger in 1978.

Vada was active in the Lodgepole community and had fond memories of socializing with their many neighbors. She was very active in her church and had a strong Christian faith. Vada volunteered for many years at the Dakota Buttes Museum. After moving to town, she ran a daycare out of her home and later worked in the activity department at Western Horizons Care Center.

In October 2025, Vada and Kenny set the bar high by celebrating their 75th wedding anniversary. They felt fortunate to celebrate this milestone with so many family members and friends. Their love for each other never faltered, only growing stronger with each year. Many who knew them will remember seeing them holding hands.

Vada was preceded in death by her parents, all of her siblings, and son Gary in 2024. She is survived by her husband Kenny, daughters Barbara (Doug) Johnson, Shelly (Tom) Geerts, sons Larry (Suzanne)Doerr, Keith (Susan) Doerr, Delmar Doerr, daughter-in-law Marilyn Doerr, thirteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Memorials received in Vada's name will be donated to the Hettinger Methodist Church.

Condolences to the Doerr family can be sent through our website at www.evansonjensenfuneralhome.com

Published 3-12,2026

OBITUARY | *Kenneth "Kenny" William Doerr, 1929-2026*

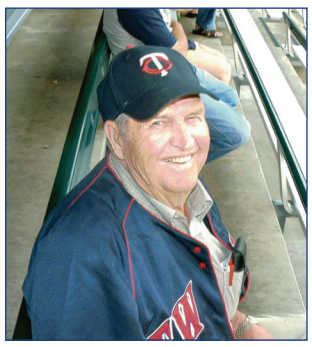
Kenneth Doerr, age 96, of Hettinger, ND, passed away on February 19, 2026, at the Western Horizon Care Center.

Visitation will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. followed by a Family and Friends Service at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2026, all at the Centennial Chapel of Evanson Jensen Funeral Homes in Hettinger, ND.

Service of Remembrance for Kenny will be Monday, March 16, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. MT at the United Methodist Church on Airport Road in Hettinger, ND. Pastor Paul Pleuddeman and Pastor Lou Witmer will officiate, and burial will follow at the Hettinger Cemetery.

Kenneth William Doerr was born on October 18, 1929, on the family farm near Lodgepole, SD, to Harry and Viola (Larsen) Doerr. He was the seventh of nine children.

Kenny attended his first 8 years of school at the Lodgepole School and finished his 4 years of high school in Hettinger. While in high school, he was active in sports and



became a charter member of the National Guard. His first training for the Guard was held in the basement of the Adams County Court House. After he graduated from high school, he helped build an Armory building in Hettinger and also one in Mott, ND.

He married his high school sweetheart, Vada Stocking, on October 9, 1950. This union was blest with six children, Barb, Gary, Larry, Keith, Delmar and Shelly. Shortly after his marriage, Ken was called into active duty with the Army National Guard and was stationed in Germany. After returning from his time in the service, he and Vada purchased a farm and land in the Lodgepole area where they farmed and ranched. They later moved to another farm near the Grand River. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to his neighbors when it was time to work cattle or shear sheep. Kenny was a talented carpenter and was instrumental in the construction of new buildings and remodels in the area. He was proud of the fact that he was a part of building the United Methodist Church in the mid 1970's. He served on many boards and committees through the years. He was also very involved in his church and was Lay Leader for many years.

In 1978, Kenny and Vada sold their farm and moved to Hettinger. After the move, Ken worked for Great Plains Supply, Adams County Soil Conservation and helped various farmers during their busy times. He was an avid sports fan, and it wouldn't be surprising to see him in the stands watching any sport and for any age group. He especially did not miss any events in which his grandchildren participated. Ken was well known for the peanut brittle that he made. He and Vada spent many hours making and selling the candy from a recipe that he perfected.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife of 75 years Vada, son Gary in 2024, his parents, and 7 of his siblings. He is survived by daughters Barb (Doug) Johnson, Shelly (Tom) Geerts, sons Larry (Suzanne) Doerr, Keith (Susan) Doerr, Delmar Doerr, daughter-in-law Marilyn Doerr, thirteen grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and sister June (Bill) Stevens.

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OBITUARY | *Mary Jo Verhulst, 1958-2026*

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain…" (Revelations 21:4)

Mary Jo Verhulst, 67, of Hettinger, ND, passed away peacefully in her sleep during the first week of February 2026. She was suffering terribly from a very painful condition known as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. Our merciful God has taken her home where there is no more pain, brokenness, or despair. He has taken her to where there is new life, restoration, and redemption. We will mourn the loss of Mary Jo in our lives here on earth but celebrate her new life in the Risen Christ, Jesus.

Mary Jo was born October 2nd, 1958 in Fargo, ND. She grew up in Reeder with her parents Andrew and Margaret Wagner and her brother, Bill Wagner. She was also surrounded by close cousins, whom were like siblings to her. She attended Reeder Public School where she was proudly a Reeder Rocket cheerleader and basketball player. She met Edward Verhulst who became her best friend and then her husband. They married on January 27, 1977. They welcomed four daughters into this world. One daughter, Andrea, passed away shortly after birth and has surely welcomed

her mother home.

Mary Jo was a devoted stay at home mother while her children were young. She was tender, caring, and made everyone feel safe and loved. As a family they enjoyed camping, visiting the Black Hills, and celebrating the holidays. Mary Jo was especially fond of making Christmas a magical time for her children. She was also a devoted friend and neighbor, often helping others in their time of need.

When her children were all in school, she went on to get her Bachelors of Nursing Degree from Dickinson State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude. As a nurse working at West River Regional Medical Center she was often described as kind, intelligent, calm under pressure, and compassionate. Her nursing care extended beyond the walls of her employment. She often cared for the sick and suffering of her family and friends. She was the person people turned to in times of distress, giving the most compassionate care and friendship to anyone who needed it.

Another passion she had was cake decorating. She was self taught and had an artistic skill at making realistic flowers. She made many cakes for friends, relatives, and customers. Her grandkids were always delighted at the cakes she made for their birthdays.

Mary Jo's life became challenging and difficult for her after being diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome. It is considered one of the most painful chronic conditions, with a pain score higher than childbirth and cancer; and it was unrelenting for her. It started in her knee following a simple surgery and eventually progressed to other areas of her body. She was often bedridden for days and had very limited capacity for activity. Despite this she remained very loving and tender to those who visited her. She never complained, she never talked about her suffering other than a simple, "I'm hurting," even though this condition took so much from her life.

Mary Jo will always be remembered for her kindness, compassion, nurturing care, and her sunny disposition. Many have expressed how she was there for them and carried them through difficult times. To know her was to know love.

Mary Jo was preceded in death by her beloved parents Andrew and Margaret Wagner, and her daughter Andrea Verhulst. She is survived by her daughters Jill (CJ) Holzer-Fargo, ND, Tina (Jeremy) Friebel-Hettinger, ND, and Kayla (Torey) Ostlund-Perham, MN, and her 7 grandchildren. She is also survived by her brother Bill (Doreen) Wagner.

Condolences to the Verhulst family can be sent through our website at www.evansonjensenfuneralhome.com

Rosary and a time of remembrance was held on February 27th at Holy Trinity Catholic Church at 7 pm. A Funeral Mass at Holy Trinity was held for Mary Jo on February 28th at 10 am with lunch to follow.

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NOTICE OF MEETING

ADAMS COUNTY WEED BOARD

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026
1:00 PM

THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
ADAMS COUNTY COURTHOUSE
602 ADAMS AVE ~ HETTINGER ND

3-5,12

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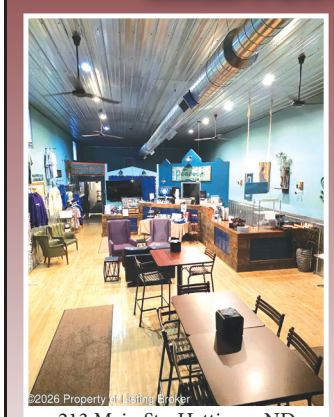

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