

Viola Marion Hanson was born on February 19, 1928, to Albert E. and Inga G. (Nelson) Hanson in rural Hawley, MN. She grew up on a farm near Lysne Church and received her education at a local country school.

Viola married Ernest Brager, and together they started their family in Moorhead, and eventually moving to Walla Walla, Washington. Four children would be born to them: Beverly, David, Daniel, and Wayne. After Ernest's passing in 1966, Viola made the courageous decision to move her family to Dilworth to be nearer to relatives. Her culinary journey began at the Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA which continued at the North Star Truck Stop, Dilworth.

In 1968, Viola married Troy Cofer, and they welcomed a son, James, into their lives. Sadly, Troy passed away in 1974, and Viola embraced her role as a widow for the remainder of her life. She continued to share her love for cooking at Culley's and Willy's in Dilworth for many years before semi-retiring, although she maintained her culinary passion.

Viola was known for her vibrant spirit, often staying up late to enjoy work or leisure. In her spare time, she enjoyed sewing, having saved green and gold stamps to acquire her beloved Vigorelli sewing machine, which she used to create beautiful quilts. Her talents also extended to cross-stitching and embroidery. A source of wisdom and comfort for her family, she became the "family doctor," offering medical advice whenever needed.

Her heart was particularly warmed by visits from her great-grandchildren; she cherished every moment spent with them. Viola lived in Dilworth for many years before relocating to Mill Street Apartments in Fergus Falls for additional care. In 2020, she moved to Eventide Nursing Home in Moorhead.

Viola Cofer's life was filled with love, resilience, and a deep commitment to her family. She will be profoundly missed and forever remembered by those who knew her.

She is survived by three children: David (Debra) Brager of Moorhead, Daniel of West Fargo, ND, James Cofer of Dilworth; 14 grandchildren, and many great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren; two sisters: Betty Landa of Menasha, MN, and Arlene Landa of Dilworth, MN; and several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Preceding Viola in death was two husbands: Ernest Brager and Troy Cofer; her parent Albert and Inga Hanson; daughter Beverly Gould; son Wayne Brager; daughter in law: Kay Brager, grandson Adam Brager, siblings: Allen (Delores) Hanson, Hazel (Joe) Villiard, Melvina (Ivan) Villiard, baby brother, brothers in law: Roy and Darvin Landa.

Viola Cofer, age 97, of Moorhead, MN, formerly of Dilworth, MN, passed away peacefully on February 3, 2026, at Eventide on Eighth in Moorhead, MN.



Celebrating the Life of
Viola Marion Cofer
February 19, 1928 ~ February 3, 2026



*Her kitchen was a warm harbor.
Windows steamed with stories,
timers chimed like gentle bells,
and every pie crust carried
a little extra love folded in the edges.*

*Quilts bloomed beneath her fingers,
patch by careful patch,
scraps of yesterday turning into
tomorrow's comfort.
Needle flashing silver in lamplight,
she sewed patience into every seam.
Cross stitch by cross stitch,
she embroidered prayers you could
hold.*

*And through it all,
her spirit moved bright and uncontainable,
a spark that refused to dim.
She laughed easily,
worked steadily,
loved fiercely.*

*Even now,
you can find her in the hum of a kitchen,
in the weight of a quilt across your knees,
in the quiet patience of a threaded needle.*

*She is there
in every warm meal,
every careful stitch,
every piece of cloth transformed
into something meant to last.*

Funeral Services

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 ~ 11:00 am

Korsmo Funeral Chapel

Moorhead, Minnesota

Officiating ~ Rev. Elizabeth Hiller

Dilworth Lutheran Church

Scripture Reader ~ Holli Brager

Pianist ~ Christopher Gould

Congregational Hymns

Blessed Assurance & Amazing Grace

& Just A Closer Walk With Thee

Honorary Pallbearers

All Family and Friends Present

Interment (Meet at the cemetery)

Wednesday 2:00 PM

Lysne Lutheran Cemetery

17648 57th Ave N

Hawley, Minnesota

