

In Loving Memory Of

Douglas D. Knutson

July 12, 1934

Alexandria, Minnesota

March 2, 2025

Willmar, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, May 31, 2025 - 1:00 p.m.

Our Saviors Lutheran Cemetery

Sacred Heart, Minnesota

Prelude

Words of Promise

Prayer of the Day

Scripture

John 14:1-7

Obituaries

Lavina – Kathy (daughter-in-law)

Doug – Benjamin (grandson)

Music

“Softly And Tenderly” - Daniel O’Donnell

introduced by Jon (son)

Message

Pastor Dan Bowman

Psalm 23

Music

“When Peace Like A River” Pastor Dan Bowman

Committal Service

Benediction

Military Honor Guard

Sacred Heart American Legion Post

Celebrating the Life of



Douglas & Lavina Knutson



Lavina "Vinie" Marie Knutson (Freiborg) was born on April 17, 1938, in Roseland Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, the daughter of Boyo and Ralphine (Woltjer) Freiborg. She grew up in Roseland and graduated from Danube High School in 1956. Following high school, Lavina moved to Sacred Heart where she met Douglas Knutson to whom she was married on October 26, 1958. Following their marriage, they lived in Sacred Heart and were blessed with three sons.

Douglas and Lavina were members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church where Lavina was an active member of the Ladies Aid and taught Sunday school and confirmation classes.

Lavina took great pride in being a homemaker and enjoyed time with her family at their home in Sacred Heart and at their cabin on Green Lake. She enjoyed nature, tracking weather, geocaching and tending to her garden.

Among her other interests, Lavina was a quilter and crafter which resulted in cherished gifts for family and friends.

Lavina passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at Bethesda North Pointe in New London, at the age of 85.

She is survived by her children, Jon (Ann) Knutson of Champlin, Mike (Kathy) Knutson of New London, Dave (Laurie Porter) Knutson of Otsego; grandchildren Heather (Edward) Auerbach, Justin (Regan) Cooper, Tyler (Megan) Cooper, Tom (Kristi) Knutson, Ben Knutson, Victoria (Brandon Matus) Knutson, Veronica Knutson, Vincent Knutson, Joseph Porter, and 6 great grandchildren. Also surviving is her sister, Carolyn Winkelmann and sister-in-law, Barb Benson; as well as several nieces, nephews and other family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and two brothers, LaRoy Freiborg and Leslie Freiborg.

Passing after Lavina's death was her husband, Douglas; sister-in-law, Lois Freiborg; and brother-in-law, Delbert Winkelmann.



Douglas Dean Knutson was born on July 12, 1934, in Alexandria, Minnesota, the son of A.L. and Lucy (Morris) Knutson. Doug spent his first 3 years in Philip S.D. and then moved with his family to Sacred Heart, MN in 1937. He grew up in Sacred Heart and graduated from Sacred Heart Public High School. After two years at Hamline University, he joined the U.S. Army.

In the Army Doug was a Morse Interceptor for the 6TH US ASA Field Station at Herzo Base in Germany. During the course of his service, he monitored the Sputnik satellite signal in orbit. Following his time in the service, Doug returned to Minnesota to finish his education at the Minnesota School of Business.

After college, he started working at the Sacred Heart Farmers Exchange Elevator with his father. He met his wife Lavina Freiborg after returning home and they were married on October 26, 1958. They continued to live in Sacred Heart and were blessed with three sons.

Doug became the owner/operator of the Sacred Heart Farmers Exchange Elevator in 1965 following his father's death. After selling the grain elevator in 1978 he went on to be elected the Renville County Treasurer. He became the longest serving (1979-2003) and the last elected Treasurer of Renville County.

Douglas and Lavina were members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church where Doug served on various committees. He also served on the Sacred Heart Public School Board and the city council.

Doug was a dedicated husband and father who had his signature laugh and a charming grin. Doug and Lavina enjoyed spending time at their cabin on Green Lake and taking walks with their beloved dog Toby. Together they enjoyed feeding/watching birds, geocaching and taking day trips.

In 2022, Doug and Lavina moved to New London, MN and in 2024, Doug moved to Willmar. Doug passed away peacefully Sunday, March 2, 2025, at Bethesda Grand in Willmar, at the age of 90.

He is survived by his children, Jon (Ann) Knutson of Champlin, Mike (Kathy) Knutson of New London, Dave (Laurie) Knutson of Otsego; grandchildren Heather (Edward) Auerbach, Justin (Regan) Cooper, Tyler (Megan) Cooper, Tom (Kristi) Knutson, Ben (Myrna Rosenstiehl) Knutson, Victoria (Brandon Matus) Knutson, Veronica (Kevin Aldrich) Knutson, Vincent (Shelby Tanner) Knutson, Joseph (Lexi) Porter, and 6 great grandchildren. Also surviving is his brother, Robert (Char) Knutson, sisters-in-law, Carolyn Winkelmann and Barb Benson, as well as several nieces, nephews and other family.

He was preceded in death by his parents and spouse, Lavina Knutson.