

The Life of LaVerna Houdek



Services for LaVerna Houdek, 100, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico and formerly of Groton will be 2 p.m., Saturday, November 14, 2015, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

LaVerna died Saturday, November 7, 2015 at an assisted living facility in Rio Rancho.

Laverna was born on October 14, 1915 to Frank and Mary Weihrauch in rural Groton, SD. During her 100 years of life she witnessed many cultural changes and technological advances. She attended a small, rural school during her elementary years. During high school, she boarded in town in Groton because daily winter travel was too difficult from the family homestead in the country. She would tell storied about traveling by horse and buggy. Laverna graduated from Groton High School in 1933.

Laverna married Leland Houdek from Orient on October 3, 1937 in Groton. They lived in St Paul, Mn until Leland served in the Army in Germany during WWII. While Leland was at war, including missing in action for 3 months, she worked at the telephone office in Groton as

a telephone switchboard operator. After his return for WWII, they lived in Brookings, SD where their only child, Mary, was born on January 30, 1949.

Laverna retired from Singer Sewing Machine Company after 25 years. At Singer, she was a sewing instructor, a sales person, and the book-keeper. Her successful sales while at Singer earned her several company all expense paid trips.

Throughout her many years of living in Groton, she was active in both the community and her church. She is a lifetime member of Legion Auxillary. Many remember her as a Sunday School teacher at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She also served on the alter committee, Ladie's Aid and Circle, and the quilting group.

Laverna enjoyed life and church and friends. She was an avid Twins fan even when they were losing; loved auto races; enjoyed sewing for friends and family. She was an incredible seamstress. She enjoyed reading biographies of famous persons.