



LaVonne Stouffer

September 2, 1944 - May 18, 2025

LaVonne "Vonnie" (Van Zee) Stouffer, 80, passed away peacefully in her Roseville, Minnesota home on May 18, 2025 after years of health challenges and a final day surrounded by her adoring family.

LaVonne was born at home on Sept. 2, 1944 in a community of Dutch-American farmers in central South Dakota. She was the first in her household to graduate from high school and with her typical no-nonsense courage left the farm for business school.

LaVonne sought every opportunity to learn. She began her career as an assistant in a law firm, where she often proved to know more than the attorneys. She was a vital partner in crafting the doctoral dissertation that landed her husband Ralph a professorship in the Twin Cities, where they moved a few years after marrying in 1966. Her keen memory for detail and calm leadership served her well in the insurance field, where colleagues sought her out for professional and personal advice. She was admired for her work ethic, kindness, and integrity.

For over six decades Vonnie and Doc created a beautiful life together, raising their children, Kris and Joe, to feel safe, understood, and cherished. Disco dancing in the 70s, racquetball in the 80s, Timberwolves games in the 90s. Pizza out on Fridays, date nights every Saturday and church on Sundays.

Thanksgiving in South Dakota, Christmas in Chicago and later St. Paul, post-retirement stays in Florida. All of it was made special by Vonnie's warmth, joy, and thoughtfulness.

Family was the most important thing to Vonnie, and she was thrilled when hers expanded. She had immense pride for her children's spouses, Tom and Alisun, and she was a deeply devoted Nana to her grandchildren, Margaret and Harris.

LaVonne made the world a better place by the way she made those around her feel. She had an incredible curiosity and care for people and a gentle, bright presence. She was an excellent listener, which made her great at saying the right thing, at giving the best advice, at tackling problems big and small. Her lifetime is marked by many close friendships with wonderful people who loved her profoundly.

Vonnie was slow to anger and easy to giggle. She had an incredible green thumb and an absolutely magical way with mashed potatoes. She read hundreds of books, collected paintings by local artists, and sang (off key) to Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra and the Hallelujah Chorus. She packed so much mental and physical toughness into such a small package. She was secretly extremely competitive. She thrived in the sunshine, the heat, and especially the humidity. She kept the cleanest, most organized home any of us will ever see. She was beautiful and stylish at every age. She had a strong faith and love of God, and she was not afraid to die. She thought her grandchildren and granddogs could do no wrong. She gave the best back scratches, arm pats, and cheek pinches. She was everyone's favorite. She had enough love for a million lifetimes.

Family who hold her in our hearts: husband Ralph Edgar Stouffer III, children Kristin Stouffer (Tom Meckey) and Joseph Stouffer (Alisun Abbott),

grandchildren Margaret Meckey and Harris Meckey, brother-in-law John Tronvold, sister-in-law Ellamarie Stouffer Boersma, nephew Jeff Tronvold (Paula Tronvold), nieces Laura Bloom Johnson and Juliet Bloom McNulty (Jim McNulty), and nephew-in-law Jerry Wielenga. Family who have gone on before her: parents Gerrit William Van Zee and Margaret Jongejeugd Van Zee, sister Elsie Van Zee Tronvold, niece Deneen Tronvold Wielenga, brother-in-law Wes Boersma, and nephew-in-law Carl Johnson.

Family and friends are invited to attend a celebration of life for LaVonne on Saturday, July 12, 10am-1pm (service at 11am) at the Washburn-McReavy Chapel, 515 Hwy 96 W, Shoreview, MN 55126. The service will be live streamed for those who cannot join in person. The webcast will be accessible five minutes prior to the service time. To view, select the "tribute wall" tab and click on the video feed.

Memorial gifts may be directed to Dakota Christian School: <https://www.dchs.net/> or National Breast Cancer Coalition: <https://www.stopbreastcancer.org/>.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Memorial Service

JUL 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Visitation

JUL 12. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CSt)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for LaVonne Stouffer in memory of LaVonne Stouffer



Washburn-McReavy - June 06, 2025 at 12:24 PM

LB

“ All family gatherings are complete with the love and smile of Aunt Vonnie. We spent Christmases together for many years. She was always quick to pinch your cheek and give some love. I always loved getting her cards in the mail on my birthday. She was the best aunt.



Laura Bloom-Johnson - July 12, 2025 at 10:05 AM

LH

“ Our dear Vonnie, our beautiful friend. Her kind heart and calm spirit were matched only by her incredible competitive streak. (We got to see this while playing a board game with the Kipps gang! lol) Vonnie, we have so many fond memories that make us smile. Sending love and prayers to Doc and Family. Vonnie you are deeply missed. RIP Love Dean and Lin



Linda and Dean Hoskin - July 12, 2025 at 09:44 AM

“ *The Wake We Leave*

*The days grow short
when the season turns.
The end of a cycle is upon us.
It is the fallow season
for the soil of our souls,
a quiet time of reflection,
and preparation
for return, renewal,
and rebirth.*

*Should we doubt the wisdom
of the caterpillar
as it surrenders to the mysteries
of the cocoon,
when what comes next
has wings
the color of rainbows?*

*As we take our leave,
what remains,
is that ripple in the wake
of our living,
reaching distant shores,
we cannot know.
Now, beyond our reach,
it is as the reflection
of the moon upon the tide,
left in the hands
of the ocean of time
to shape into the weave
of life's ever unfolding.*

*We all live in the grace
of wakes and tides*

*left by others before us,
through their journey,
their struggles, their dreams
their loves.*

*We are shaped by the past,
just as our living shapes the lives
of those who follow us.*

*Today,
In the presence of her spirit,
with grace and gratitude,
can we not still feel
that whiff of her presence
left in the now empty room
of her well-lived
and love-filled life?*

*Vonnie touched me deeply,
touched all of us, I believe.
She left in her wake
that wave of unfaltering love
for family and friends,
the love-signature
of her gift to us,
and an enduring testament,
that her life mattered.*

*We are all just passing through,
but what was left
by the one we honor today,
carries on in all she touched,
endures in how she made each of us
somehow better
than we might have been,
without her love and friendship.*

So I offer,

*to the one who has given so much –
this song of gratitude
that it may be felt in the uplift
of her new wings,
that she may know
her life made a difference,
and her love
carries on through our living,
our loving,
and the wake we leave for others.*

For Vonnie

*Dr. John L Schuler
7/12/25*

Dr. John Schuler - July 12, 2025 at 08:55 AM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of LaVonne Stouffer.*



July 11, 2025 at 09:23 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of LaVonne Stouffer.

July 11, 2025 at 09:23 AM

LS

“ Lyn & John Schuler purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of LaVonne Stouffer.



Lyn & John Schuler - July 10, 2025 at 03:02 PM

LS

“ Lyn & John Schuler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of LaVonne Stouffer.

Lyn & John Schuler - July 10, 2025 at 03:02 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of LaVonne Stouffer.



July 07, 2025 at 01:31 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of LaVonne Stouffer.

July 07, 2025 at 01:31 PM

DA

“ This is a tribute to my friend and colleague Vonnie Stouffer. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. We shared a common bond of faith and family, and she was a true ambassador for our Lord. Her life truly displayed the Fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These qualities describe who Vonnie was, along with her keen sense of humor and her contagious laugh. I treasure our time shared at The Mart and I pray for comfort and peace for her wonderful family. I know how much she loved each one. I will miss you, Vonnie!
Darlene Archer

Darlene Archer - June 24, 2025 at 04:12 PM

SH

“ Sandy Steele Hickman lit a candle in memory of LaVonne Stouffer



Sandy Steele Hickman - June 08, 2025 at 10:13 PM

BV

When most people would love to sit in a house cooled by air-conditioning on Minn hot/humid days, our beautiful neighbor Vonnie , would put on her hat and go for a walk. It was ideal for her.
Miss you laVonnie- Stan /Bev

Beverly Vasseur - June 20, 2025 at 01:31 PM