



## Verlyn Hofer

June 6, 1925 - May 30, 2025

Verlyn Hofer, age 99, of Lennox, SD, passed away May 30, 2025, at Good Samaritan Luther Manor Nursing Home, Sioux Falls, SD.

Verlyn Hofer passed away into the loving arms of Jesus on May 30, 2025, at the age of 99, exactly one week before what would have been his 100th birthday. Verlyn Virgil Hofer was born at home on June 6, 1925, in Davis, SD, to Edward and Cora (Ulberg) Hofer joining a sister Vivian. At the age of 3, he and his family were displaced by a tornado which destroyed their family home and business (The Davis Eagle newspaper). Verlyn would call Lennox home for the next 90 years. Verlyn graduated from the Lennox High School class of 1943. He was drafted into the US Army during World War II after high school serving in France and Germany with the 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 14th Armored Division from 1944 to 1945. Being injured in combat, Verlyn was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. In 2023, he was also honored by the French government with the prestigious French Legion of Honor medal. Following the war, Verlyn returned to South Dakota and studied journalism at South Dakota State University and Augustana College. On June 10, 1948, Verlyn and Mary Ann (Ness) were married at West Prairie Lutheran Church by Rev. Richard Nelson. Verlyn and Mary enjoyed a celebration of their 75th wedding anniversary with an open house gathering of friends and family in June 2023. Of all facets of Verlyn's life, he considered Mary and their children his biggest gift in life. Verlyn ultimately acquired the Lennox Independent from his father Edward continuing the family business and

serving the Lennox community. With the help of Mary, their four children, and numerous loyal employees throughout the years, he dedicated his career to the operation and publication of The Lennox Independent and the custom printing business (Lennox Show Print). After selling the newspaper in 1992, Verlyn continued to contribute a weekly article for many years offering up his insights, wit and wisdom concerning local, regional and national events. Verlyn was known as a leader of the Lennox community, a patriotic veteran, a storyteller with an amazing memory for details, a family man and a servant in his church. Verlyn was a lifelong member of First English Lutheran Church teaching Sunday school for 30 years, serving on church counsel, building committee, church centennial committee and singing in the choir and quartet. After the war, Verlyn served as editor of the newsletter for the 14th Armored Division Association for over 25 years and also served as president in 2001. As a member of the SD Newspaper Association, he served on the board of directors and was president for one year. This organization elected him to the South Dakota Newspaper Hall of Fame. Other notable group associations of Verlyn's were Lennox American Legion Post for 80 years, Lennox Commercial Club, Boy Scout member and leader, Lennox Municipal Band member of over 20 years, charter member of the Lennox Development Corp, Lennox Centennial Commission, Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Lennox Area Community Fund board member, Lennox High School Alumni Assoc. board member, Disabled American Veterans, PTA, Lennox Historical Society, Lennox City Planning and Zoning Commission, Lennox "Trees for Tomorrow" committee, and Lennox Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels volunteer. Verlyn was preceded in death by his wife of 75 years Mary Ann (Ness) Hofer, his son David Hofer, his parents, his parents-in-law, his sister Vivian Renz, and all of his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. Verlyn is survived by his sons Doug (Carolyn) Hofer of Pierre, Bill (Holly) Hofer of Sioux Falls, and his daughter Becky (David) Wensink of Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, daughter-in-law Rhonda Arens of Crofton, NE; grandchildren Laurie (Derrick) Yeager, Jon (Michelle) Hofer, Rachel Brice, Jordan (Keyanne) Hofer, Tommy (Kia) Hofer,

Jaime (Marlon) Lobban, Mitchell (Ann) Hofer, Michael Hofer, Mariah (Adam) Weber, Zach (Rachel) Wensink, Sam (Sarah) Wensink, Emily (Jonathan) Gabrielse, and Joshua (fiancé Kelsey) Wensink; 27 great-grandchildren and numerous other relatives.

A service celebrating Verlyn's life and his eternal homecoming will be held at First English Lutheran Church in Lennox on Tuesday, June 3 at 10:00 am. Visitation with the family will be held on Monday, June 2 from 5:00-7:00 pm also at the church which includes prayer and time of sharing beginning at 6:30 pm. In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to the Union Gospel Mission of Sioux Falls, Wounded Warrior Project, or Children's Home Society of South Dakota, which were all organizations near and dear to Verlyn's heart.

# Tribute Wall

BL

“ *Mr. Hofer was a world class person who truly will be missed. My sincere honor sir God Bless*

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**Brian Robert Lind** - June 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *Verlyn was a true pillar of the Lennox community for the majority of his life, He set a great example as a citizen who served honorably as a soldier in our most devastating world conflict. He leaves behind a strong legacy and will be missed by those who knew him. Blessings to all of his family.*

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**Evan M. Renz** - June 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *I'm so sorry to see Verlyn has passed away. What a wonderful man. He made such an impact on Lennox and beyond. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family!*

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**Mary Avair** - June 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *I forgot to say how many wonderful memories I have of Verlyn playing the the community band! He was a treasure!*

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**Mary Avair** - June 04, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Verlyn was a great guy to know! As his neighbor boy, Verlyn went to Ole's and bought a Lawn Boy mower just like my dad's, and hired me to mow his lawn each week/as needed. Just another way that Verlyn helped someone out!

*My condolences to the family. A life well lived.*

*Jeff Radel*

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**Jeffrey Radel** - June 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ Our sympathy is extended to Verlyn's loved ones. I was blessed (as were many others) to have Verlyn for a Sunday School Teacher. Prayers for his loved ones.

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**Twyla (Johnson) Lund** - June 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ Iâ€™m so honored to have played for Maryâ€™s service, and to play for Verlynâ€™s funeral on Tues, June 3. I had so much admiration and respect for this lovely couple who loved God, family and country! 🇺🇸 May God bless the Hofer family!

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**Leslie (Fylling) Nelson** - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ From the Schlueter family, I extend sympathy to the Hofer family. My parents were long time friends of your family....my dad worked at the Independent when your dad was a young man. When my dad died, your father wrote the most beautiful card to my mom and I still think about his words often. Obviously, he lived a wonderful life.

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**Laurie Schlueter-Hynes** - June 01, 2025 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ *A NICE GUY. Condolences.*

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**Brian Blundell** - June 01, 2025 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *My sincere sympathy to all who mourn the loss of Verlyn.*

*A gift will be given to the Wounded Warrior Project in his memory.*

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**Lisle Stabrawa** - June 01, 2025 at 12:00 AM

HO

“ *Lennox is a better place for having Verlyn in it. My condolences to the family.*

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**Heather Oltmanns** - May 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Sorry for your loss. Ver Lyn and my mom  
Theresa  
Gedstad  
Collins were classmates at  
Lennox. Heaven and all loved ones  
Welcome him  
Now!*

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**Peg Van asselt** - May 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Verlyn was a remarkable man, always seeking to make the world a better place. My father, Richard Nelson, married Verlyn and Mary, and they continued to be good friends for over 75 years. It is certain that Jesus welcomed Verlyn with wide open arms, and all his dear family and friends celebrated his entrance into heaven! The legacy of his writing and detailing his family’s history will endure. To God be the Glory.

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**Jean Nelson Mallory** - May 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ when you think of Lennox, you think of Verlyn. a man who deeply loved his community, his country and his family. our deepest condolences to all of the family

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**JIM AND PATRICIA KOERNER** - May 31, 2025 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ So sorry to hear of Verlyn’s passing. What a fine gentleman and a pillar of our community!

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**Randy White** - May 30, 2025 at 12:00 AM