



Mary Knuttila

January 20, 1932 - January 31, 2007

Mary Jane Knuttila, age 75, passed away on January 31, 2007 in Wadena with her family beside her. Mary Jane was born on January 20, 1932 to Florence and Paul Koennicke in Perham. Mary Jane graduated as class valedictorian from Perham High School in 1949. She was united in marriage to Jerome (Jerry) Knuttila on September 7, 1949 in Perham. Mary Jane received a degree in business from the University of Minnesota-Morris. Mary Jane began her career as a receptionist for a dental office in Park Rapids. She also helped with the family business, Knuttila Implement, in Perham and Park Rapids. She was an assistant librarian at the Perham High School. Mary Jane was involved with the Community Action Council in New York Mills. She was instrumental in starting the fuel assistance and weatherization program in Minnesota with the help of Walter Mondale. Mary Jane later became the regional director for Planned Parenthood in Minnesota. Mary Jane was always involved in the community and very service to others oriented in everything she did. She was also a talented seamstress along with many other hobbies. Mary Jane and Jerry semi-retired to Minneapolis where they were building managers of Loring Green. They enjoyed their time in the Twin Cities. Most importantly to her family, Mary Jane was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She is survived by daughters, Paula (Earl) Damm and Peggy (Scott) Loween of Wadena; son, Chris (Linda) of Atwater; eight grandchildren; and seven great grandchildren. Mary Jane is preceded in death by her parents and her husband. The Mass of Christian Burial will be held

Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena with Fr. Donald Wagner as celebrant. Interment will be in the Haycreek Cemetery in Sebeka. Honorary Pallbearers are Mary Jane's Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Pallbearers are Chris Knuttila, Scott Loween, Brad Loween, Dana Damm, Erik Damm, and Travis Christianson.

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Chris, Paula, and Peggy:
My sincere sympathy to you and your families... losing a parent is such a hard thing... but remembering the good times and all the memories keeps us going... I remember when your parents used to come over to play cards there was always so much laughter I am not sure how much card playing actually happened... and your dad fishing and the fun all those guys had... I am sure they are all sharing all those memories now... May God be with you all..... Tami

Tami Westover-Schwartz - January 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ *I knew Mary Jane only briefly toward the end of her life, but we quickly found we had several things in common including a love of literature and a work history in human services and Planned Parenthood.*
I experienced her to be a woman who valued her good mind, her dignity and her independence. I offer my thoughts and prayers as you say good bye.

Jane Erckenbrack - January 31, 2007 at 12:00 AM