

John Donald Hovey, 86, of New Rockford, North Dakota, died on November 8, 2024, at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd in New Rockford.

John was born on September 25, 1938, in Minot to Donald and Jeanette (Anderson) Hovey. John was a 1956 graduate of Minot Model High School, received a business degree from the University of North Dakota in 1961, and graduated from the UND School of Law in 1964.

He was united in marriage to Karen Halling of Bisbee, North Dakota, in June of 1961, and they were blessed with three children.

A passion for life and learning propelled John through life. He loved to collect and restore cars. John loved to hunt, fish and travel, and if he could combine all three, even better. He was a history buff and often combined those interests with family trips. Karen and John especially enjoyed their trips to Europe.

John practiced law in New Rockford from 1964 to 2001, starting his career with the firm of Mattson and Williams. A member of the State Bar Association of North Dakota from 1964 to 2001, John was also admitted to practice before the North Dakota Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of North Dakota and the United States Supreme Court. John served as a Trial Judge on the Spirit Lake Reservation, as Eddy County Assistant States Attorney, Eddy County Justice, and as City Attorney for many years. John graduated from the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Nevada.

John was a member and past president of New Rockford Kiwanis Club, First Lutheran Church, First Lutheran Church Foundation, Lutheran Home of the Good Shepard Foundation and Celebrations Incorporated. He served as mayor of New Rockford from 1984 to 1992 and was active over the years in various other civic associations.

He was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity at UND, of the Minot and Devils Lake Elks Lodges, the New Rockford Eagles Aerie #2923, a past Master of Century Masonic Lodge #60, a member of the El Zagal Shrine Temple, past president of Mid State Shrine Club, and past Director of Court 67 of the Royal Order of Jesters. John was a Life Member and Past President of the New Rockford Golf Club, and will be buried in the Prairie Home Cemetery, near the seventh hole tee box.

John was preceded in death by his parents Don and Jeanette. John loved his family and they will miss him immensely. Surviving him are his wife Karen, brother Robert (Betty) Hovey of Bellevue, NE, Karen's sister Kathy (Bill) Nichols of Helena, MT, children Steven (Joyce) Hovey of Austin, MN, James (Annette) Hovey of New Rockford, ND, and Kristin (Kurt) Veitch of Tucson, AZ, as well as grandchildren Mackenzie (Alex), Maggie (Levi), Marissa, Ashley (John), Jonathan, Alex (Erica), and Nicholas, and the newest generation, great grandchildren Emma, Elli, Isaac, Dylan, Evette and James, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made in lieu of flowers to the Prairie Home Cemetery or Shriners Hospitals for Children. John's family would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your friendship and support over the years and especially during this time.

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



John D. Hovey

SEPTEMBER 25, 1938 – NOVEMBER 8, 2024

Celebrating A Life Well Lived

John Donald Hovey

September 25, 1938 – Minot, ND

November 8, 2024 – New Rockford, ND

A Collector's Hobby

Gas engines, gas engines,
All around the place,
You will find them in the shop
Garage, or any vacant place.
He quickly reads the (Forum) green sheet
And reads it through and through
There is a gas engine for sale -
That we better look into!

Oh, he scrapes off old grease
And uses penetrating oil,
To loosen up the engine
He's been working on a while.

When other men he's visiting
You will often hear him say,
"Do you know of any gas engines
That are laying around your way?"

Gas engines, gas engines,
They huff and puff and pound,
And the men say, "Now listen -
Isn't that a lovely sound?"

~By Floreine Williams

VISITATION

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

10:00AM – 11:00AM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

11:00AM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Rev. Amy Kippen

SPECIAL MUSIC

Annette Hovey ~ Pianist

Ashley Holten ~ Alexander Hovey ~ Nicholas Hovey

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Our Father

Congregational Hymns

You Are Mine ~ Peace Like A River ~ Leave Me Lord

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Robert Hovey ~ Paul Fortney ~ Travis Peterson ~ Daylen Ramstad

Gene Neal ~ Lonny Vigen ~ Dewey Heckaman ~ Marlin Weisenburger

Ashley Holten ~ Mackenzie Bartels ~ Jonathan Hovey

Maggie Bartels ~ Alex Hovey ~ Marissa Bartels ~ Nicholas Hovey

BURIAL

Prairie Home Cemetery, New Rockford, ND

FELLOWSHIP

Following the Burial

New Rockford Golf Course, New Rockford, ND

Arrangements by
Evans Funeral Home – Carrington & New Rockford, ND
www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com