



### *An Irish Blessing*

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
May the rain fall soft upon your fields,  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand

*John Always  
Shared His  
Messages  
On A Hand  
Drawn Scroll.*



courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respect · brave

## John Robert Conlin

**Born to Edward Sr. & Elizabeth (Dolan) Conlin**

February 21, 1926 ~ Williston, North Dakota

**Returned to His Heavenly Father**

August 27, 2025 ~ Fargo, North Dakota

### **Funeral Mass**

Friday, September 5, 2025 at 11:00 AM

St. Joseph's Catholic Church ~ Williston, North Dakota

### **Officiating**

Father Paul Eberle

### **Readers**

Helen (Conlin) Adducci & Ann (Conlin) Watterud

### **Readings**

Daniel 12: 1-3    1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18    John 14: 1-6

### **Music**

"Be Thou My Vision" ~ "On Eagles Wings"  
"O Sacrament Most Holy" ~ "Here I Am, Lord"  
"America The Beautiful"

### **Musicians**

Emily Driscoll    Thomas Conlin    Juliana Conlin  
Catherine Conlin    Frances (Conlin) Zander    Christina Conlin

### **Pallbearers**

John Conlin    Daniel Conlin    Edward Conlin  
Patrick Conlin    Logan Cole    Kyle Emerick  
Nick Adducci    Stetson Watterud

### **Honorary Pallbearers**

All of John's Grandchildren

### **Gift Bearers**

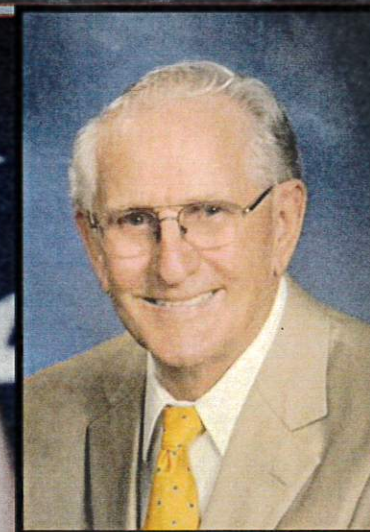
Marguerite (Conlin) Gysler    Mary Beth (Conlin) Huether  
Pauline (Conlin) Davis    Cecilia (Conlin) Emerick

### **Final Resting Place With Military Rites**

North Dakota Military Honor Guard  
US Navy Honor Guard & Knights of Columbus  
Riverview Cemetery ~ Williston, North Dakota

### **Arrangements By**

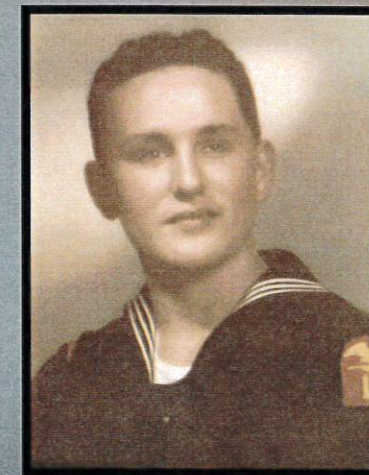
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home ~ Williston, North Dakota



*In Loving Memory Of*

**John R. Conlin**

February 21, 1926 - August 27, 2025



age bravery · courage · honor · respect · bravery · courage · honor · respe



John Robert Conlin, 99, was born on February 21, 1926, to Edward Sr. and Elizabeth (Dolan) Conlin at Mercy Hospital in Williston, North Dakota. He passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, on August 27, 2025, at Bethany Home in Fargo.

John grew up in Williston, where he became an Eagle Scout. In 1941, he built his own car and won the only Soapbox Derby in Williston, receiving a treasured trophy. He graduated with the Williston High School Class of 1944. His family owned and operated Conlin's Furniture. At age 18, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in World War II as a Yeoman 3rd Class in the Decoder Room, chosen for his strong typing skills.

While serving aboard the USS *Henrico* in April 1945, his ship was struck by a kamikaze near Okinawa, Japan. Thankfully, John, who had gone below deck moments before, survived uninjured but lost many of his crew mates in the attack, some of whom he prayed with in their final moments. After the *Henrico* was heavily damaged, John was transferred to the USS *Sarasota* and went on to serve aboard several ships in the Pacific before being honorably discharged in 1946.

Through the GI Bill, John attended St. John's University in Minnesota, graduating in 1950 with a degree in History. On August 28, 1948, he married the love of his life, Mary Helen Kelly, at St. Joseph's in Williston. Together they shared 77 years of marriage and were blessed with 15 children—10 daughters and 5 sons.



Throughout their life together, John and Mary lived in Williston, Dickinson, and Fargo, North Dakota; and St. Cloud, Minnesota. John worked in the family furniture and carpet-cleaning businesses and was deeply involved in his community. He served as a scoutmaster, performed in local plays and sang tenor in the barbershop chorus, took part in clown diving at water carnivals, and played drums in the Williston Cowboys' Drum and Bugle Corps.



His strong Christian faith guided his life. He was an active parishioner, serving as a cantor, lector, and member of the Knights of Columbus, where he attained the 4th Degree of Faithful Navigator. He spearheaded the Mardi Gras fundraisers at Trinity High School in Dickinson and at St. Joseph's in Williston. John was a longtime member of the VFW, American Legion, and Secretary of the NLUS Dakota Council #394-39. In 2015, he was humbled to be chosen as an honorary crew member of the USS *North Dakota* submarine. He enjoyed performing with *Entertainment, Inc.* theater productions.

John was an avid golfer, achieving multiple holes-in-one, and later enjoyed working at the Williston Municipal Golf Course during retirement. After suffering a stroke in 2013, John and Mary moved to Riverview Place in Fargo.

Known for his quick wit and playful humor, John delighted his grandchildren and great-grandchildren with his Donald Duck voice, clown dives, and endless antics. His family loved him dearly, and he will be remembered with deep admiration.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Edward Sr. and Elizabeth; brothers Clement (Patricia) and Edward Jr. (Joan); sister Theresa (Sr. Patrick); five children—Angela, James, Jean, Marie, and Theresa; son-in-law David Huether; grandchild Andrew Conlin; and great-grandchild Jack Adducci. He was also preceded in death by brothers-in-law Robert (Mary) Nyvold, James (Janet) Kelly, Bud Shanahan, Dick Dwyer, and Chuck Rohrman, as well as sisters-in-law Kathryn, Patricia and Joan Conlin.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Mary; his children John (Mariam Weingarten), Marguerite (John) Gysler, Mary (the late David) Huether, Daniel (Debra Davidson), Pauline (Jerry) Davis, Edward (Jackie Hammer), Helen (Chris) Adducci, Cecilia (Scott) Emerick, Patrick (Rhonda Klasna), and Ann (David) Watterud; his sister Mary (Conlin) Nyvold; his brother Francis (Frank) Conlin; 35 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

