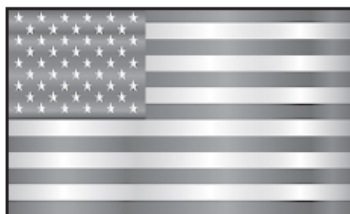


**Harold William Koch**  
**November 26, 1935 - March 28, 2026**



Harold William Koch, born November 26, 1935, in Bridgewater, South Dakota, passed away on March 28, 2026. He was the son of Vessey and Katherine Koch.

Visitation with family present will be Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Kinzley Funeral Home, Madison, South Dakota. Gravesite services will be in Bridgewater at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

Harold graduated from Bridgewater High School in 1954, where he excelled in football, basketball, and track. A standout athlete, he held the Bridgewater High School basketball scoring record of 1,822 total points for more than 50 years and still holds additional

school records, including scoring 48 points in a single game.

Following high school, Harold proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from 1954 to 1956, receiving an honorable discharge. He then attended Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell for three years, where he was named to the SDIC All-Conference defensive team. Harold later transferred to Sioux Falls College, graduating with a degree in education. During his one season there, he scored 11 touchdowns. His passion for athletics continued as he coached Legion baseball, leading Beresford to the state championship game.

In 1961, Harold accepted a teaching and coaching position in McIntosh, South Dakota. As an assistant coach, the basketball team advanced to the Class B State Championship game. He later taught and coached in Selby, South Dakota, where he led the Selby High School football team to a perfect 10-0 season.

In 1969, Harold and his family moved to Upton. There, he taught and coached football, basketball, and track. His junior high football teams compiled an impressive 32-3-1 record with an extended winning streak, while his junior high basketball teams earned two district championships.

Beyond coaching and teaching, Harold played independent basketball for more than 20 years. He played independent basketball for many years and was especially proud to have competed with the Bullhead Braves in the All-American Native Team Tournament—an honor he cherished and often spoke about. He also served as a respected basketball official, working one South Dakota Class B State Tournament, one Wyoming State Tournament, and five sectional games in Rapid City.

Harold had a lifelong love of sports. An accomplished horseshoe player, Harold won two Wyoming State Championships and played a key role in bringing the World's Horseshoe Championship to Gillette.

In 1980, Harold transitioned from education and co-owned Mountain Mud Haulers, a trucking business serving the oil fields. After 20 successful years, he sold his share of the business and retired.

In 1999, Harold retired and moved to Chamberlain, South Dakota, where he enjoyed fishing and spending time with family and friends.

Harold married Peggy Block in 1962. He is survived by his children, Cotton Koch (Kim) of Madison, South Dakota and grandchildren Kelsey Lovseth (Josh) and Bennett Koch (Cassidy); and great-grandchildren Jack, Spencer, and Colton. Harold is preceded in death by his parents and daughter Tanya Ferguson (Stan) of New York.

Pallbearers are Bennett Koch, Jack Lovseth, Spencer Lovseth, Josh Lovseth, Ryan Olinger, and Donnie Ziemer.

Harold loved students and if you feel inclined please make a donation to the Madison Central School District Educational Foundation.