Viola (Paulsen) Kennedy was born at Luverne, ND July 15, 1918, to Andrew and Kristina Paulsen. She was raised and educated there and graduated in 1936. After school she moved to Watford City where she lived with her sister, Mary and Clint Grantier and began work for H.H Lundin at the local Drug Store. There she learned to wait on customers, make desired sodas, work in the pharmacy, and sell the western garments they were known for.

On Oct. 29, 1937 she married Angus (Ag) Kennedy and they made their home on the family ranch. They enjoyed 20 years of marriage before unexpected pulmonary emboli took her husband on April 6, 1957. Vi stayed on the ranch with the help of her father-in-law and nephew, Larry Grantier. During that time she worked for Eklund’s at Dakamont Motors and Herb Lundin at the Drug Store. After a move to Billings, MT she learned the dress shop business. Vi returned to Watford City in 1975 and purchased “My Lady’s Dress Shop” enjoying a thriving business for 10 years before retiring in 1985.

After her retirement, Vi wasn’t content to sit idle. She volunteered in many valuable ways throughout the community. She visited and read the daily news to patients at the hospital and her many friends living in the Good Shepherd Nursing Home. She was grateful for the opportunity to serve wherever her church needed her and was proud to serve as a deacon for the First Presbyterian Church.

She was a member of the City Chamber of Commerce, and supported the 50 Years in the Saddle and the ND Cowboy Hall of Fame. Vi enjoyed supporting many charities including the GSNH, Home on the Range for Boys, ND Cancer Society, and Family Crisis Shelter.

Viola is survived by her daughter, Barbra (Jarrette) Johnson, Mandaree, ND; six grandchildren which include Gena Baker, Nona (Jeff) Carlson, Maura (Jason) Newburn, Keira (Jon) Adams and twelve great-grandchildren; sisters Joyce (Ron) Schonefelder, and Alice Sorenson, sister-in-law, Eleanor Paulsen; daughter-in-law, Linda Kennedy; special friend and his family, Tom Calquhoun and many nieces and nephews.

Her parents, husband, Ag, an infant son, and son, Angus III in 1989, four brothers, three sisters, two sisters-in-law and four brothers-in-law preceded her in death.