

Merlyn Al Rees, son of Al and Ruth Rees, was born on May 22, 1941, in Guthrie Center, Iowa. He entered into eternal rest on Monday, March 6, 2023 in Shenandoah, Iowa, at the age of 81 years, 9 months, 15 days.

Until he was five years old, Merlyn lived in Guthrie Center with his mother and his younger brother Gary, and his younger sister, Judy. Then he moved to a farm outside of Guthrie Center and was raised by his uncle and aunt, Leslie (Leck) and Maracella (Worshek) Buttler. Merlyn graduated from Guthrie Center High School in 1959.



Following graduation Merlyn enlisted in the United States Navy. He served as a sonarman 3rd Class on the USS Jenkins, a destroyer escort in the Pacific, from 1960-1964. Following his honorable discharge, Merlyn enrolled in Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, Missouri. He graduated with a degree in Agricultural Business in 1970.

Merlyn moved to Shenandoah in 1971 and served the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) out of the Shenandoah office for the early part of his career, lending to farm families and providing housing loans for area families. When the FmHA reorganized as the Rural Development Agency, he worked out of the Atlantic office with communities and rural water organizations by processing water, sewer loans and grants and other essential community facilities in southwest Iowa.



On May 3, 1975, Merlyn was united in marriage to Sarah Lorance. On June 12, 1976, their daughter Rebecca was born. Becca recalls a very fun family road trip vacation to Mount Rushmore in South Dakota in 1985. Becca's 16th birthday was celebrated with a surprise limousine trip to Omaha, NE to attend a dinner theater and a hotel overnight with several friends. Sarah died on May 3, 2004.



Member of the Shenandoah American Legion Post #88, Shenandoah Elks Lodge #1122, and an active charter member since 1985 of Horse Creek Hunting Club. Merlyn was an avid hunter and fisherman and active in wildlife conservation. At any given time, he was a member of White Tails Unlimited, Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and Pheasants Forever. His daughter recalls going to ALL those banquets with him. Merlyn thoroughly enjoyed his annual trips to Canada with his fishing buddies to fish for walleye. He also enjoyed ice fishing in local ponds in the winter.



On September 22, 2007, Merlyn was united in marriage to Carol Lee Radden cruising down the Missouri River on the Spirit of Brownville. The happily retired couple enjoyed traveling, taking cruises and spending time with family and friends.



Merlyn loved his dogs and loved to whistle. Early in the morning while he was walking the dogs, his beautiful whistling could be heard for three blocks in the neighborhood. Becca fondly remembers her dad whistling "You Are My Sunshine". Customers and staff at Hy-Vee recall him whistling on the job. He even whistled "Amazing Grace" for a funeral.



Merlyn was known by many names: Honey by his sweetheart wife, Carol Lee; Dad by his daughter, Becca; Papa by his grandkids, Trevor and Rees; Bro by his sis, Judy; Uncle Fuzz by his nephews, Jeff and Brian; Rees by his fishing buddies; Pops by the beloved Taylor family; Buddy Buddy by his dear friend, Neet; and Brother Obnoxious by Carol Lee's mother, Lois Radden (whom he called Mother Superior).

Preceding Merlyn in death were his parents, John and Pearl (Worshek) Rees; uncle and aunt, Leslie and Marcella Buttler; first wife, Sarah (Lorance) Rees; and brother in-law, Edward Fitzgerald.



Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Carol Lee Rees of Shenandoah, IA; daughter, Becca Fausett of Stafford, VA; brother, Gary Rees of Guthrie Center, IA; sister, Judy Fitzgerald of Omaha, NE; nephews, Jeff (Jessica) Fitzgerald of Omaha, NE and Brian (Anna) Fitzgerald of Lincoln, NE; and grandchildren, Trevor and Rees of Stafford, VA.

Many friends, colleagues, and acquaintances will miss Merlyn's beautiful whistling and sense of humor. To this obituary we add our thoughts, prayers, and memories of a life shared with Merlyn.

For Good

*I've heard it said, that people come into our lives
For a reason bringing something we must learn.
And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them.
And we help them in return. Well, I don't know if I believe that's true
But I know I'm who I am today because I knew you.*

*Like a comet pulled from orbit as it passes a sun,
Like a stream that meets a boulder halfway through the wood.
Who can say if I've been changed for the better but because I knew you.
I have been changed for good.*

*It well may be that we will never meet again
In this lifetime. so, let me say before we part:
So much of me is made of what I learned from you.
You'll be with me like a handprint on my heart.
And now whatever way our stories end I know you have rewritten mine
By being my friend.*

*Like a ship blown from it's mooring
By a wind off the sea. Like a seed dropped by a skybird in a distant wood.
Who can say if I've been changed for the better but because I knew you . . .
Because I knew you . . . I have been changed for good.*

*And just to clear the air I ask forgiveness for the things I've done, you blame me for. But then I guess, we know there's blame to share.
And none of it seems to matter anymore.*

*Like a comet pulled from orbit
(Like a ship blown from it's mooring)
As it passes a sun.
(By a wind off the sea)
Like a stream that meets a boulder
(Like a seed dropped by a bird in the wood)
Halfway through the wood.
Who can say if I've been changed for the better. I do believe I have been changed for the better.
And because I knew you . . . Because I knew you . . .
Because I knew you I have been changed . . .
For good.*

In
Loving Memory

Merlyn Al Rees

May 22, 1941 ~ March 6, 2023
81 years, 9 months, 15 days

VISITATION

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Monday, March 13, 2023
Nishna Valley Funeral and Cremation Service
Shenandoah, Iowa

CELEBRATION OF LIFE FUNERAL

11:00 am
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Nishna Valley Funeral and Cremation Service
Shenandoah, Iowa

WORDS OF COMFORT

Rev. Rick Sleyster

SPECIAL MUSIC

Carol Eno ~ Pianist
"The Gambler"

BEARERS

Jeff Fitzgerald Brian Fitzgerald Paul Anderson
Dorman Otte Kyle Taylor Kenton Taylor

HONORARY BEARERS

Gary Beggs Bob Haegele

In Memoriam

Bob (Dots) Dotzler Dick Bolte Persh Radden

REGISTRY ATTENDANT

Connie Anderson

PLACE OF REST

Rose Hill Cemetery ~ Shenandoah,

MILITARY HONORS

Shenandoah American Legion Post #88

MEMORIALS

Wildlife Conservation of choice in Merlyn's name
(ex: Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, etc)
Shenandoah UCC Music Department

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Following the graveside service everyone
is invited to the Shenandoah Elks Lodge for
Food and fellowship with the family.

The LORD is my *Shepherd;*
I shall not want.

He maketh me
lie down in green pastures:

He leadeth me beside the still waters,
He restoreth my

soul:

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death.

*I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies

Thou anointest my head with oil; My cup runneth over

Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life;

And I will dwell in the house

of the LORD

forever.

- Psalm 23



NISHNA VALLEY FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
SHENANDOAH, IOWA

In Loving Memory



Merlyn A. Rees

May 22, 1941 ~ March 6, 2023