

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
www.swimemorial.com



In Loving Memory
Merrill D. Swanson



Merrill Dean Swanson was born on February 22, 1933 on a farm east of Essex, Iowa to Raymond and Inez (Wedell) Swanson. He unexpectedly entered into rest on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at Nebraska Medicine – Omaha following a sudden heart attack at the age of 86 years, 8 months, and 18 days.

At the age of five, Merrill and his family moved into Essex in 1938. He attended the Essex Community Schools for three years until moving to a farm west of Essex in 1941. He then attended Centennial country school through the eighth grade before attending and graduating from Essex High School with the Class of 1950.

Following graduation, Merrill farmed with his father until April of 1953, when he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. After basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas, he was sent overseas to Kaiserslautern, Germany. He spent 17 months as a clerk typist at Rhine Engineer Headquarters in Germany. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Corporal in March of 1955. Following his discharge, Merrill returned to farming.

On January 29, 1956, he was united in marriage to Etta Marie Swift at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Shenandoah, Iowa. Following their marriage they moved to a farm north of Shenandoah. While living there a son, Kevin Dean, and a daughter, Nancy Lyn, were born. In 1965, they moved to the farm east of Essex, where Merrill was born. They lived and farmed there until 2006, when they moved to Shenandoah.

When Merrill was young he attended and was confirmed in the Mission Covenant Church near Essex and later joined the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Shenandoah. He served on the church council, Page County Extension Council, was an assistant 4-H Leader, and a member of the American Legion Post #88. He also worked at the Shenandoah Food Pantry.

Preceding Merrill in death were his beloved wife, Etta (Swift) Swanson; son, Kevin Swanson; and parents, Raymond and Inez (Wedell) Swanson.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Nancy Wilson and her husband Darrell of Quincy, IL; two grandsons, Blake Wilson and his wife Kassidy of Edwardsville, IL and Logan Wilson and Caitlin Arnold of Morrison, CO; two great granddaughters Kalylah and Kelette Wilson of Edwardsville, IL; sister, Mavis Herzberg and her husband Darrell of Villisca, IA; sister-in-law, Gloria Swift of Wheatland, WY; nieces and nephews, Diane Shipley and husband Bill of Nodaway, IA, Chris Herzberg and wife Jami of Charlotte, NC, Steven Herzberg of Ankeny, IA, Dwight Swift and wife Cindy of Colorado Springs, CO, Paula Ann Swift of Bountiful, UT and Darwin Swift of Bristow, VA; many great nieces, nephews and cousins; other relatives and many friends; and his beloved dog "Sparky".

Following the committal service at the cemetery, lunch and fellowship with the family will be held at the Shenandoah Senior Center



In Loving Memory

Merrill D. Swanson

February 22, 1933 - November 9, 2019

86 years, 8 months, 18 days

Visitation

One hour prior to the service, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Funeral Service

11:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 16, 2019

Nishna Valley Funeral Home

Shenandoah, Iowa

Pastor Kurt Hoover, Officiant

Casket Bearers

Blake Wilson Logan Wilson Kyle Shipley
Trevor Shipley Steve Herzberg Chris Herzberg

Honorary Bearers

Bill Shipley Darrell Wilson Darrell Herzberg
Jim Wilson Kris Kirby

Music

"You Raise Me Up" *"How Great Thou Art"*

Registry Attendants

Mary Alice Johnson Karen Erickson

Military Honors

Shenandoah Legion Post 88

Place of Rest

Rose Hill Cemetery
Shenandoah, Iowa

Memorials

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
People For Paws

