



Merlin E. Fornes

January 2, 1939 - April 3, 2022

Merlin E. Fornes, 83, Kathryn, North Dakota passed away Sunday, April 3, 2022 at Maryhill Manor, Enderlin, North Dakota surrounded by his family under the care of CHI Health at Home and Hospice.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm with a prayer service at 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 7, 2022 at Lisbon United Methodist Church, Lisbon, North Dakota.

The funeral service will be 10:30 am Friday, April 8 at the church with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Merlin Eugene Fornes was born January 2, 1939 to Lloyd and Madge (Brooks) Fornes in Preston Township, North Dakota on the family farm. He attended country school #4 in Preston Township until 3rd grade. Merlin then joined his older brother in attending Enderlin School graduating from Enderlin High School.

Following his high school graduation, Merlin began farming with his father and brother in Preston Township. On April 9, 1960 he married Eunice Lokken at St. Petri Lutheran Church, Nome, North Dakota. Together, while raising their five children, they farmed and raised cattle. Merlin did take some college courses in nursing and worked at Mercy Hospital in Valley City, North Dakota for a few years, but returned to farming. In his later years, he rented out his land and continued to enjoy his cattle until the time of his death.

Merlin was active in and supportive of 4-H and the Ransom County Fair which were family events. He also liked to read, play cards and draw. Merlin was a member of the Farm Bureau and First Methodist Church of Lisbon, North Dakota.

Merlin is survived by his wife, Eunice; children Corey (Lana) Fornes, Verne Fornes, Gloria (Steve) Trautman, Grace (John) Savant and Ebe (Crystal) Fornes; grandchildren, Sean (Michelle) Hensen, James (Bekah) Fornes, Christopher Fornes, Stephanie (Kyle) Roelfsema, Jessica (John) O' Day, Megan Trautman, Dylan Savant and Katie Savant.

Merlin is also survived by his great grandchildren: Cyndey Hensen, Ian Hensen, Parker Roelfsema, Riley Roelfsema, John O' Day Vth and Jocelyn O' Day.

Merlin was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Melvin and his infant sister.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel. An online guestbook is available at olivernathanchapel.com

Cemetery Details

Preston Cemetery

Fort Ransom, ND

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church
602 Forest St
Lisbon, ND 58054-4233
(701) 683-4479

Prayer Service

APR 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Lisbon United Methodist Church
602 Forest Street
Lisbon, ND 58504

Visitation

APR 8. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Lisbon United Methodist Church
602 Forest Street
Lisbon, ND 58504

Funeral Service

APR 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Lisbon United Methodist Church
602 Forest Street
Lisbon, ND 58504

Tribute Wall

KS

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Merlin Fornes's family. I never met him, but I remember my best friend at NDSU, his son Ebe, tell so many great stories about his dad. Ebe, I am so sorry for your loss.*

Kirsten Suda ,Fargo, ND

Kirsten Suda - April 21, 2022 at 10:46 PM

VD

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the family, friends, neighbors, church family, community organizations of Merlin Forness. Our family remembers his dedication as a member of Ransom County Farm Bureau, township organization and 4-H youth activities. Gone too soon. May God's love surround you! God bless. You are in our prayers, Virgil and Sheryl Dagman and Margaret Dagman and families.*



Virgil and Sheryl Dagman - April 07, 2022 at 09:07 PM

AH

“ *So very sorry for your loss*

Alisa Hilde - April 07, 2022 at 09:25 AM

SS

“ *Eunice and family, we are very sorry for your loss. God Bless all of you! RIP Merlin*

Scott, Connie, Waylon Sorby - April 06, 2022 at 11:42 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Merlin E. Fornes.*



April 06, 2022 at 07:00 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merlin E. Fornes.*



April 06, 2022 at 06:42 PM

KJ

“ *When I was a little kid I was fascinated at how Merlin would roll his cigarettes and they would stay together. To a little kid it was how the heck did he do that? Many years of good memories! Best memories of recent years is riding in Merlin's old truck with him and Eunice to go and check on the cows. Riding up and down the hills was great and he would let me get out and take pictures of the wildflowers also. By the way the cows were just fine. Merlin was always interested in our progress in fixing up the old cabin and we enjoyed visiting and meals made on the old wood stove. Thank you for the good times! Kay (Langland) Johnson*

Kay Johnson - April 06, 2022 at 01:48 PM

MS

Eunice and family so sorry for your loss. God be with you and may His love surround you and comfort you at this most difficult time. Marlene Siegel Hubert

Marlene S. Siegel-Hubert - April 08, 2022 at 09:14 PM

RG

Eunice: I received the Enderlin Independent in the mail today (April 18) to find the obituary for Merlin. Sorry to hear the news. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Rodney Gillund, Crosby, ND

Rodney Gillund - April 18, 2022 at 04:58 PM

MJ

“ *My sincere sympathy to the Fornes family in the loss of Merlin. Prayers of comfort and peace to his family.*

Mary (Myszka) Jodsaas



Mary Jodsaas - April 06, 2022 at 01:22 PM