



Merlin Jennings

November 18, 1919 - December 22, 2012

A memorial service for Merlin Jennings will be held Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 11 A.M. at Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Nate Loer presiding. Prior to the service there will be visitation starting at 10 A.M.

Merlin Roy Jennings of Wadena, Minnesota died Saturday Dec. 22, 2012, at the age of 93.

Merlin was born Nov. 18, 1919 on a farm in Jackson County, Wisconsin to Roy and Esther (Johnson) Jennings.

In 1928, when Merlin was 9 years old, his folks bought a small dairy farm in the rolling hills of Wisconsin near the village of Blair. They built a barn but lost the farm the next year due to the big depression. Since it was impossible to sell the farm, the owners rented it to Merlin's folks. During the depression, life was very rough in the cities but on the farm with livestock and a large garden, they always had a very good table.

While in high school, Merlin made several trips with his Ag Instructor. With his interest in agriculture and impressed with the teacher's newer cars, Merlin decided this was the field for him. After graduation from high school, he sold his cow and enrolled at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. Merlin earned a Bachelor of Science degree from River Falls and later, a Masters Degree in

Agronomy from the University of Minnesota.

Merlin married Carolyn Peterson on July 17, 1949 in Bayport, Minnesota.

For five years, Merlin taught vocational agriculture at Little Wolf High School in Manawa, Wisconsin. Then, he went to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service in Norman and Wadena counties.

Merlin was the only son and had a farm deferment during World War II, but he chose to serve his country and enlisted in the Army. He served 3 1/2 years and was dismissed with the rank of First Lieutenant.

After he retired, Merlin designed a small plastic rule that farmers could use to measure distances and acreage on aerial photos. He sold this rule to Soil Conservation Districts throughout the United States.

Merlin spent many winters enjoying the warmer climate of Tucson, Arizona, the social activities of the trailer park and hikes in the mountains. He also enjoyed gardening, fishing, traveling and e-mailing. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena, the Rotary Club, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Merlin passed away quietly at home with family. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, and two other sisters, Beatrice Klief of Lake Havasu City, Arizona and Ruth Hohman of New London, Wisconsin. He also leaves two sons, Mark and David in Duluth, Minnesota and two grandchildren, Karsten in El Paso, Texas and Sonja in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Interment will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls, Minnesota.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 19. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Service

JAN 19. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Wadena
403 2nd St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Merlin Jennings*



Trish Steinkopf - January 19, 2013 at 10:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Merlin Jennings.*



January 18, 2013 at 03:56 PM

MJ

“ *38 files added to the album Photos and Videos*



Mark Jennings - January 02, 2013 at 03:56 PM



“ 16 files added to the album Photos and Videos



Mark Jennings - January 01, 2013 at 09:07 PM

MK

“ Carolyn and Family,

I have so many wonderful memories of my Uncle Merlin, most occurring outside. He could always get the "kids" on a snowmobile, in a canoe or a boat. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go with you.

Marianne Webers (nee Kile)

Marianne Esther Webers (nee Kile) - December 28, 2012 at 05:54 PM

JR

“ James & Rachele Reese lit a candle in memory of Merlin Jennings



James & Rachele Reese - December 26, 2012 at 09:43 PM

JR

Carolyn & Family, I am sorry to hear of Merlin's passing. Cherish your memories, and remember he is always in your heart.

James & Rachele Reese - December 26, 2012 at 09:45 PM