



## Merle Virgil

January 17, 1945 - November 11, 2024

Merle Virgil, 79, of Oskaloosa, passed away Monday, November 11, 2024, at the Mahaska Health Hospice Serenity House of a rare condition, Multiple System Atrophy, MSA.

Merle Richard Virgil was born January 17, 1945, in Primghar, IA, to Harold Leroy and Pearl Roberta (Mattice) Virgil of Gaza, Iowa. Merle grew up on a farm in a family of six boys; it was an active family, always busy with farm work. His father did custom baling and corn shelling, so there were always bales to throw and corn to scoop from the bins. There were cows to milk, chickens to feed, and horses to break. His pride and joy was his horse, Sunset. The boys never had to do chores on their birthdays! After high school, Merle attended barber college and finished January, 1964, his first job was in Aurelia, IA. That same year, he married his high school sweetheart, Kathy Davis, on April 18, 1964, at the Church of Christ in Sutherland, IA. They were blessed with a daughter, Rona Kay, three years later. The barbering business began to decline after a few years, so in 1970, Merle went to work for Super Value Grocery Stores. In 1972, he was employed by Fareway Grocery Store; this job grew into a 32-year career that began in Mason City. He would also serve stores in LeMars, Ames and finally, Oskaloosa, where he managed the store for 22 years, retiring in 2004. Merle's favorite pastimes were taking his motorhome and boat to fish in Minnesota, driving his Minneapolis Moline tractors on tractor rides, woodworking, gardening, mowing the yard, and

scooping snow (not so much!) As a member of Two Timbers Church of Christ, he served the Lord in every way he could. Merle and Kathy celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in April this year.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Ray and Leona Davis; a brother, Keith; a sister-in-law, Evelyn Virgil; two nephews, Kirk and Eric Virgil; two great-nephews, Dawson and Devin Hunt; a brother-in-law, Allyn Davis; and a sister-in-law, Cas Davis.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Kathy; a daughter, Rona (Doug) Bradford of Aitkin, MN; a grandson, Garrick Bradford and his son, Houston of Urbandale, IA; a granddaughter, Gabrielle (Brian) Schaaf and their children, Blaire and Brady of Davenport, IA. He is also survived by four brothers, Robert (Ila) Virgil of Norton, KS, Chuck (Shirley) Virgil of Sutherland, IA, Dave (Lora) of Crane, MO, and Lyle (Carol) of Canby, OR; a brother-in-law, Lee Davis of Malabar, FL; an aunt, Nell Kammerer of Sutherland, IA; and nieces, nephews, cousins and many wonderful friends.

Funeral services for Merle will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Langkamp Funeral Chapel. Following the service, cremation will be accorded, and his ashes will be buried in Waterman Cemetery in Sutherland, Iowa, at a later date. Visitation will begin at noon on Friday at the funeral chapel; the family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m. Memorials can be made to the Two Timbers Church of Christ.

# Cemetery Details

## Waterman Cemetery

420 S HiView St  
Sutherland, IA 51058

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **15**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory  
2116 N 3rd St  
Oskaloosa, IA 52577  
(641) 672-2181  
langkampfuneralchapel@gmail.com  
<https://www.langkampfuneralchapel.com>

*The family will greet visitors from 4-6 p.m.*

## Funeral Service

NOV **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Merle Virgil*



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - November 14, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ *Kathy, Rona & family so sorry to hear of your loss. So many happy memories of Merle and being with your family. May God comfort you all in your time of mourning. Jennifer (Findling) Butler*

Jenn Butler - November 18, 2024 at 05:05 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Merle Virgil.*



November 15, 2024 at 02:36 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Merle Virgil.*



November 14, 2024 at 01:22 PM

BS

“ Brian & Michelle Schmith purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Merle Virgil.



Brian & Michelle Schmith - November 14, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Merle Virgil.



November 14, 2024 at 08:33 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Merle Virgil.

November 14, 2024 at 08:33 AM

MW

“ Marilyn W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merle Virgil.

Marilyn W. - November 13, 2024 at 08:36 PM

MW

“ *Much love, Nolan and Marilyn Wright purchased the Spirit - Memorial Globe Candle Holder for the family of Merle Virgil.*



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**Much love, Nolan and Marilyn Wright** - November 13, 2024 at 07:54 PM

SH

“ *Steve and Cherry Hardie purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Merle Virgil.*



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**Steve and Cherry Hardie** - November 13, 2024 at 07:39 PM

MY

“ *I loved seeing Uncle Merle. He always had a smile!*

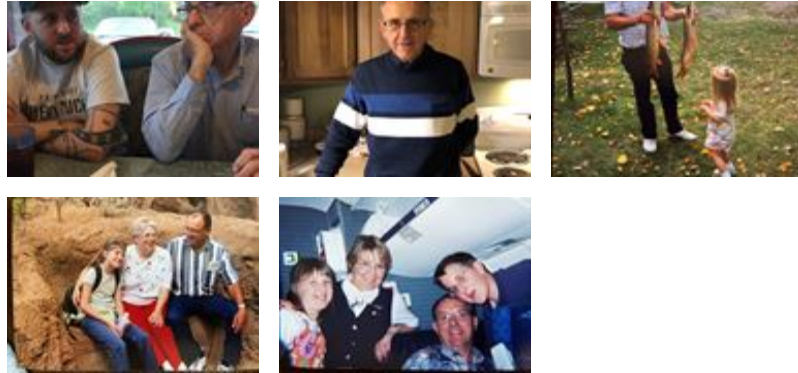


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**Milne Young** - November 12, 2024 at 01:47 PM



“ 153 files added to the album LifeTributes



Langkamp Funeral Chapel & Crematory - November 12, 2024 at 12:28 PM



“ He was a wonderful person to work with at Fareway for years.

Mary Stout - November 12, 2024 at 10:33 AM



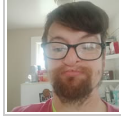
“ So sorry to learn of Merle’s illness and passing. He suffers no more & will be there to meet you, Kathy when you get there. Grieving hurts so bad, but try to remember he is already where we are waiting to go. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

Mae Van Steenis - November 12, 2024 at 10:28 AM



“ My deepest Sympathy to Kathy Rona Doug and the extended family - We were so blessed to have Merle & Kathy spend their vacations at Ironwood & then Smith Lake - They always felt like "family" Truly a life well lived - - Go rest high on that mountain - your work on Earth well done

Jan Johnson - November 11, 2024 at 08:25 PM



*Sorry for your loss*

**Anthony Groenendyk** - November 11, 2024 at 10:45 PM



*Kathy, appreciate your call about Merle's passing. Again, I am so sorry for your loss of Merle's earthly presence, but praising God some day you will see him again, healthy, happy and whole in the presence of Jesus. My continued prayers for you and your family in this sorrowful journey. Merle and you were a special couple. I love you, dear friend.  
Marilyn Wright*

**marilyn wright** - November 13, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Merle Virgil.*



November 11, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Merle Virgil.*

November 11, 2024 at 06:11 PM

MK

“ Kathy, Rona, Doug, and, extended family. Our hearts are hurting for you all. And, for all who were blessed to know Merle. Merle was the a man of kindness, humor, and, an amazing work ethic. His love for his Savior was the center of his life, and he showed his faithfulness and dedication by serving others in whatever capacity he was needed. He adored his family, and that adoration was returned. We know that Merle is “Safe in the Arms of Jesus,” but we also accept that his loss is grievous and painful to those left here on earth.. Our prayers and love are with his family. Keevin and Marcia Koch

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**Marcia and Keevin Koch** - November 11, 2024 at 05:38 PM

GK

Merle was a good man always willing to help. We were managers in the same area for Fareway and I would call him and ask his opinion frequently. Merle was a wise person I always enjoyed seeing him over the years.

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**George Klesel** - November 12, 2024 at 09:45 AM