

October 26, 2014

The Life of Merle Hanson



Services for Merle Hanson, 78, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, October 28 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Elizabeth Johnson will officiate. Burial will follow in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen.

Visitation will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Monday, Oct. 27, from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Merle died October 23, 2014 at his residence in Groton.

Merle Lloyd Hanson was born on March 2, 1936 in Aberdeen to Marvin and Irene (Schneider) Hanson. He attended country school and graduated from Bath High School. Merle enlisted in the US Army and served until his honorable discharge. He graduated from Kansas State University with a B.S. in Veterinary Tech. Merle married Johna Lilja. He began a career with Sinclair Oil in Kansas and was later transferred to Groton. Merle purchased the Groton Truck Center and the Chevrolet & Oldsmobile Franchise, operating Trail until his retirement in 2005. He married Carole Thurston in 1987 and the couple

was blessed with 25 years together.

Merle was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, where he had served on many committees and council. He generously volunteered his time to several boards including Bethesda Home of Aberdeen, Auto Dealers Association and was past President for James Valley Telephone Company and Groton School Board. He enjoyed visiting and having coffee with many people he met over the years. Playing and watching sports, fishing, golfing and hunting were activities he participated in. His favorite hobby was gardening, canning and sharing the harvest with neighbors and friends.

Celebrating his life is his mother, Irene Hanson of Aberdeen, his children, Marc (Tammie) Hanson of Groton; Julie (Tom) Hudnall of Austin, Texas; Dr. Ty (Ann) Hanson of Aberdeen, his grandchildren: Mitchel (Tyneille) Hanson, Connor Hanson and great-grandchildren, Tatum, Cash and Emersyn. Merle is also survived by his siblings, Al (Joan) Hanson of Glendale, Arizona and Patricia Mattke of Aberdeen.

Preceding him in death was his father, Marvin, his wife, Carole and his brother, Arlis "Arley" Hanson.

Honorary Casketbearers will be Harry Pharis, Chuck Raap, Dave Oleen, Orville Schaller, Gary Thurston, Jerry Rix, Mick Osterman, Alf Larson, Don Peckham, Duane Jark, Ron Troske, Tony Goldade and Dick Kolker.

Casketbearers will be Jon Anderson, Bob Gibbs, Jeff Stolle, Dennis Larson, Mitchel Hanson and Connor Hanson.

Memorials can be directed to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 1006 North 2nd Street, Groton, SD 57445.