



Merrill LeRoy Baker

August 15, 1930 - March 7, 2014

Merrill LeRoy Baker, age 83 of Lovilia, passed away Friday, March 7, 2014, under the care of Monroe County Hospice at Monroe County Hospital in Albia, from Mesothelioma.

Merrill was born August 15, 1930, to Vern and Pearl (Barnhill) Baker in rural Lovilia. He married Helen Corrick on June 19, 1954, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia. They were blessed with five children, Kevin, Jolinda, Kim, Jeff, and Brian.

A graduate of Lovilia High School, class of 1948, Merrill joined the U.S. Army in 1951 during the Korean Conflict, and was honorably discharged in 1954. He worked at Maytag from 1955 until he retired in 1985. He then owned and operated Baker Construction.

Merrill was a member of the Lovilia United Methodist Church, American Legion, Monroe County Cemetery Association, South Central Iowa Coon Hunter Association. He was on Lovilia City Council, Helping Hands Board, the Northeast Missouri Electric Cooperative Board, and the Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative Board from 1989-2013. He was very involved with Lovilia Babe Ruth and volunteered much of his time to the teams and maintaining the field. He also was active in helping start and build the Welcome Home Soldier Memorial. In 2010, Merrill and his son, Brian, traveled to South Korea for the

60th Anniversary of the Korean Conflict.

Merrill enjoyed being outdoors, playing softball, hunting and fishing, and watching all his grandchildren's sporting events.

Merrill is survived by his wife Helen Baker of Lovilia; five children, Kevin (Jane Sinnott) Baker of Albia, Jolinda (Ed) Wilson of Lovilia, Kim (Steve) Haluska of Carroll, Jeff (Jamie) Baker of Ankeny, and Brian Baker of Cedar Falls; a special nephew, Greg (Holly) Shelford of Knoxville; ten grandchildren, Ryan (Laura) Wilson of Cedar Falls, Lindsay (Dave) Kamerick of Albia, Adam (Kendra) Haluska of Solon, Carolie (Sean) Mays of Loma Rica, CA, Dustin Baker of Loma Rica, CA, Sean (Shellie) Haluska of Carroll, Kelsey (Andrew) Oswald of Ankeny, Kristin (Curt Mick) Wilson of Lovilia, Blake Haluska of Iowa City, and Brett Baker of Ankeny; nine great grandchildren; and two more expected. He is also survived by three sisters, Norma Barnes and Gayle Hastings both of Lovilia, and Lola (Bob) Ivins of Albia; a brother, Don (Cleo) Baker of Blakesburg; a brother-in-law, Richard Corrick of Adel; and two sisters-in-law, Betty Baker of Des Moines and Hazel Baker of Albia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Vern and Pearl Baker; a sister, Doris Shelford; two brothers, Jim and Forrest Baker; and a great granddaughter, Brooklyn Kamerick.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia; with Pastor Raymond Doser officiating, and military rites provided by the American Legion of Lovilia, Albia, and Melrose. A private family burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery in Lovilia at a later date.

Visitation will be 12-8 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at Tharp Funeral Home in Albia, with Merrill's family present from 4:30-8 p.m.

Memorials may be made to Welcome Home Soldier Memorial or Lovilia United Methodist Church.

Tribute Wall



“ *Merrill LeRoy Baker*

January 30, 2023 at 05:06 AM



“ *Merrill LeRoy Baker*

January 30, 2023 at 02:53 AM



“ *Helen and Family--My sympathy to all of you on Merrill's passing. Corny as it sounds, he was one of my childhood heroes. I fondly remember being a batboy for the Lovilia town softball team when Merrill, Jack Shelford, Charger Ross, and others were playing. They were all so nice to me, and answered many questions that I would ask them about the game. I also remember playing taps with my trumpet for the Lovilia American Legion and riding with all those guys to different cemeteries around the area on Memorial Day. He was a good man, and I hope all of you are cherishing the memories.*

Ron Plum - Sheldon, IA - March 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ *I didn't know Merrill well, but know some of his children. From that, you can tell what a wonderful man he was along side Helen, to have raised such a family that remains close and have strong values. They have been taught well along the way. I know he will be missed immensely by his friends and family. Keeping your family in thought and prayer.*

Patti Pruisman - Bondurant, IA - March 13, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Helen and family in the loss of your loved one.

May fondest memories somehow help you face each new tomorrow.

*Love and prayers,
Ed & Cheryl Scieszinski*

Cheryl Scieszinski - Albia, IA - friend - March 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ TO THE FAMILY OF MERRILL -

Merrill left a wonderful legacy to his family. The Papich Family has known and admired this family for many years.

Blessings to ye, upon ye, within ye and beneath ye as you each journey with the grief of the loss of a fine man.

JoAnne send her love and warm greetings to Helen and the children.

Gayle and Norma - PEACE.

With Love. May God comfort you in your sadness. May He send you strength and courage from Heaven.

Marlene Papich Terrell - Peoria, IL - Friend from Lovilia - March 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Helen and family in the loss of your loved one.

May fondest memories somehow help you face each new tomorrow.

*Love and prayers,
Ed & Cheryl Scieszinski*

Cheryl Scieszinski - Albia, IA - friend - March 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TI

“ *Merrill was a great guy and we were fortunate to get to know him through Gram (Julia Masterson) and Mom (Wilma Douglas). We always enjoyed visiting with him. Thinking of you, Helen, and the rest of the family. Love ya, Jacque, Phil, and Amy Griffin*

The Griffins Phil, Jacque and Amy - New Sharon, IA - March 11, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ *In our business and community development work at Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) we had many opportunities to work with Merrill.*

It was always special to see and visit with him at REC meetings. We remember him and his leadership contributions with fondness and appreciation.

With respect and admiration we wish the family and friends of Merrill our condolences.

Rand Fisher

Iowa Area Development Group

Rand Fisher - West Des Moines, IA - Friend and colleague - March 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *So sorry to hear of Merrill's passing. He was a wonderful man and he will be greatly missed!*

Love to all of you!

*With Sincere Sympathy,
Janeen and Gail Boliver*

Janeen Boliver - Marshalltown, IA - Cousin - March 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ *Our Sympathy to the family. Dalton and Merline Sonnier*

Dalton Sonnier - Duson, LA - friend - March 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *My sincere condolences to Merrill's family and siblings.*

Pauline MCGinn Steinbach - Des Moines,, IA - friend - March 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *Prayers are with the Baker family. May god be with you at this time*

John & Cheryl Schade - Mason City , IA - Jolinda's Nephew - March 09, 2014 at 12:00 AM

EI

“ *TO THE BAKER FAMILY MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME MAY MERRILL REST IN PEACE*

ED MCGINN - QUINCY , IL - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *For everyone that knew Mr. Merrill we know he is resting at peace with our maker looking down watching us celebrate his wonderful life. Yes we will miss that big wonderful smile, his kindness and willingness to help anyone at anytime. For myself I haven't been back to Lovilia in many years but I will always him for that smile.aAf*

Mick Major - Macon, GA - Friend - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My sympathy to the family. Both Mom and Dad were friends of so many in this family I can't begin to name all of the connections. Dad played cards with Merrill, Mom and Dad always talked about Helen and her basketball skills, Jolinda was at Casey's and helped Mom so many times in her later years and was her friend. Norma lived across the street from Mom for over 50 years. I even remember the night Vern and Pearl lost their house in I believe it was a fire and Dad gave Vern chore clothes for the next day. If my memory is correct that was in a very severe snow storm when I was probably only about 10 or 12 years old. Anyway just seeing this caused me to do a lot of remembering of times of old. It was just a year ago on the 5th of March that Mom's service was held at Osborn cemetary. Again I send my thoughts and prayers to all of your family. On occasions like this it is always hard to be a long way from your roots to share past memories with others.

Chris Findley Roth - Hesston, KS - friend of the family - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Rest in peace dear Merrill. You were very loved by your family and friends. Tell my Daddy, Paul Grimes, "Hello", for me. God will embrace you and welcome you home.

Beverly Selby - Colorado Springs, CO - family friend - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our sympathys to Helen and family in Merrill's passing. May you find comfort and support from each other, as well as your extended family and friends.

Tom & Patty Hannam - Albia, IA - Friends of family - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ i am so sorry to hear of uncle merrils passing. I always remember him as a quiet guy with a smile on his face. My thoughts are with aunt Helen and the kids.

sandy evans - donahue, IA - niece - March 08, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Thinking of Merrill's family and sending prayers for them all. I remember all the good times we had in bowling in Legion tournaments and league bowling a long time ago. This is from 1 fellow veteran to another brother. RIP BUDDY. You will be missed by many good friends.

Max Cox - Albia, IA - Friend - March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Merrill will be missed very much. Steady advice when ever you spoke with him and a great deer hunting team captain who loved his family.

Dwayne Bubba Price - Waterloo, IA - Friend - March 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM