



## Harold Emmett Merchant

April 12, 1933 - September 24, 2025

Harold Emmett Merchant went to be with his Lord September 24, 2025 in Minneapolis, Minnesota after an unexpected heart attack at his home in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Harold was born on April 12, 1933 in Vinton, Iowa to parents Nathan E. Merchant and Lula M. (Stieglmeyer) Merchant.

Harold married Dona Mary Davis shortly after graduation from Vinton High School. They were married 73 years. After serving in the Army, Harold obtained a bachelor's degree from Coe College and later received a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He taught in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for one year and then pursued business opportunities. Harold began his career with Benton Community School District as a teacher in Blirstown, Iowa in 1964.

During his nearly 30 years at Benton Community he held the positions of Elementary Principal, Transportation Director, Business Manager, and finally retired as Superintendent after surviving cancer. During the 1971 - 1972 school year Harold was Superintendent at the Lincoln Community School District.

Harold was an active 92 year old. He loved learning new things and tried to

keep up with technology. He enjoyed woodworking, reading, following the Hawkeyes and Cyclones, and riding his new E-Trike. His greatest joy was keeping up with his family, always being interested in their activities, accomplishments, and challenges.

Harold and Dona were founding members of Blessed Hope Community Church in Vinton where Harold served as an Elder, a teacher, and participated in constructing their current church building. After moving to Minnesota to be closer to family, they became members of Grace Point Church in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Harold is survived by his wife Dona and children Randy Merchant, Greg Merchant, and Jane Wakumoto. Surviving grandchildren are Melissa Merchant, Nathan Merchant, Laura Suel, John Merchant, Matthew Merchant, Elizabeth Merchant, Jim Merchant, Jill Gonzalez, Amy Leurinda, Miles Wakumoto, Logan Wakumoto, Anna Skrundevskiy. There are 28 great-grandchildren.

Harold was preceded in death by parents Nathan and Lula and a sister Inez Huffman.

Harold will be buried at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in a private ceremony.

Cards or letters may be sent to Dona at:

2853 105th Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55449