



Merle Arthur Wilts

May 4, 2018

Merle Arthur Wilts of Minnetonka formerly of Herman passed away at his home May 4, 2018 surrounded by family and several close friends.

Services for Merle will be on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at St Bartholomew Catholic Church, 630 E Wayzata Blvd, Wayzata MN. Visitation will be at 12:00 noon with funeral mass at 1:00 pm

A second funeral mass will be held at St. Charles Catholic Church in Herman on July 7th at 2:00 pm with burial at St Charles Catholic cemetery.

Merle was born on January 26, 1948 in Morris MN to Vern and Gertie (Drexler) Wilts. He grew up on a farm near Herman and graduated from Herman High School in 1967. He attended Alexandria Technical Collage graduating in 1969 with a degree in accounting.

Merle became paralyzed in 1954 but that never slowed him down. He played wheelchair basketball with the Rolling Gophers through which he met many people including pro athletes. He coached girls wheelchair basketball traveling all over the United States for games. He also did wheelchair marathons including going around Lake Harriet 24 times. He coached archery at Camp Courage and competed in Special Olympics.

Merle was an accountant for Courage Center for 35 years. He enjoyed

watching sports on television and working on genealogy on his computer. He also enjoyed spending time on Facebook and had friends all over the world. Merle loved his family and his many, many friends. He considered himself to be the luckiest person in the world.

Merle is survived by 4 sisters and 4 brothers, Carol Nelson, Eileen (Bob) Young, LoisAnn (Paul) Sellars, Neil (Colleen) Wilts, Larry (Marie) Wilts, Roselyn (Jay) Giese, Dale (Patti) Wilts, Ron (Bev) Wilts. 4 nephews and 14 nieces and a very special friend, Michelle Renninger. He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Idelle, and a brother-in-law, Hank Nelson.

Tribute Wall

CH

“ I am so sorry to hear of Merle's passing. He was a wonderful man. He was always so cheerful and happy whenever we got together. I will miss him.

Cherie - June 29, 2018 at 08:37 AM



“ I am sad to hear of Merle's passing. We met at a wheelchair basketball game almost 40 (!) years ago and stayed friends. I have so many wonderful memories. My sister's basset hound kissing him so much she knocked him over on the couch, Merle teaching me how to use my bow, carrying him on the beach in Carmel, CA, the aquarium in Monterey bay, Glensheen in Duluth, BBQ's with my family, and my daughter getting to meet him and visit... I will miss our chats, our visits, you, Merle. Hugs to his family and friends as I know he is missed by all of us.

Sharyl Geisert - June 25, 2018 at 11:19 AM

AJ

“ Merle was a friend to our daughter Nina, and our family was blessed to have our lives touched by his kindness and light. We send our sincere condolences.

Andrea Johnson - May 16, 2018 at 05:32 AM

JM

“ Merle was one of those coworkers who always had a smile for you. Sincere condolences to his family and friends.
Judy Meyer

Judy Meyer - May 15, 2018 at 12:57 PM

BF

“ Merle was a dear friend and neighbor. He will be missed by all who knew him and to us in the 10311 building there is a void that cannot be filled. Rest in peace Dear Friend.

Bernie Farnsworth - May 11, 2018 at 10:21 PM

SW

“ I first met Merle at Worthington where we went to school. It was great reconnecting again on Fscebook. He will be missed. R.I.P. Merle

Sharon Johnson Wendt - May 11, 2018 at 04:04 PM

MC

“ Years ago when I first met Merle it was to bring him Holy Eucharist & minister to him. It wasn't long before I realized his gifts to minister to me! He has many many friends because he was a friend to many. There is no doubt he is friend to all in Heaven! God bless you Merle for being the best friend ever!! Marti

Marti Carter - May 11, 2018 at 12:23 PM

SR

“ Merle and I met at Camp Courage a "hundred years ago" - I was still in high school - what I remember more so is that he was assistant coach for the original women's Rolling Gophers basketball team of which I was a participant - he was always so patient trying to teach me effective ball techniques.... ones that would actually be helpful for the team??
We kept up with each other via Facebook. Merle was a wonderful person with a very good heart..... RIP, Merle!

Sandy (Nelson) Runquist - May 10, 2018 at 08:58 AM

BH

“ *It all started with Dennis and Merle living together in Alex. I have heard many stories of their time together. Then Merle and I became friends on facebook and I really enjoyed communicating with him over the past years. We will really miss his upbeat attitude in life. Please rest in peace Merle. Dennis and Bev Hoernemann*

Beverly Hoernemann - May 08, 2018 at 10:03 PM