



## Merritt Robert Cody

November 18, 1935 - July 6, 2025

Merritt Robert Cody, age 89, passed away peacefully on July 6, 2025. He was born November 11, 1935 to Mary (Peg) and Merritt V. Cody in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Merritt spent time in Minnesota and California while growing up. After finishing high school he joined the army and married his wife Jean. He spent most of his life as an entrepreneur, having owned and sold several business. These included a garbage collection service, a tree trimming and insecticide business, a teacher at Faribault Technical School, owned a construction company that included maintaining the landfill in St. Peter, MN, and a motorcycle service business. Also, he operated a go-cart track in Faribault, MN which after selling, turned into Cody Rides Carnival. He and his wife Jean spent their later years traveling Minnesota operating the carnival. Merritt was a good story telling and was able to write some of these stories down.

He met his wife Jean at a young adult "Saturday Nighters" group. They were married for 67 years and had 5 children: Steve, Cheryl, Tom, and twins Dwight and Mike.

In early 1970s, Merritt was instrumental in working with Minnesota state politicians and organizations to change the state policy of institutionalizing developmentally disabled people and placing them in group homes. Which is still the standard today. The goal was to provide them a caring family style life. As a result he was given the Jaycee's Man of the Year award.

Merritt is preceded in death by his wife Jean, parents Mary (Peg) and Merritt

V. and son, Tom. He is survived by his children Steve (Marcy and 4 grandchildren), Cheryl (Tim and 3 grandchildren), Ruth (widow of Tom and 2 grandchildren), Mike (and 4 grandchildren), and Dwight (Deb and 2 grandchildren). He has 9 great grandchildren.

Services will be held at Washburn McReavy Hillside Chapel and Cemetery in Minneapolis on Friday, July 18, 2025. Visitation is at 1:00 with the service beginning at 2:00. Burial will immediately follow the service with military honors. A reception in the community room will follow.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)

2600 19th Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

## Chapel Service

JUL 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Tribute Wall

TL

“ Condolences, to all of the Cody family!

Thomas Leonard - July 18, 2025 at 11:43 AM

WS

“ Condolences to Cheryl, Stephen and the whole Cody family. I feel blessed to have met your parents and I thoroughly enjoyed my visits with them over the years. I will never forget listening to Merritt's many interesting stories and the enthusiasm in which they were shared, maybe a surprised look on Jean's face when she remembered the story differently. I would also thoroughly enjoy listening to Merritt's explanations of why things are the way they are.

*I tried to visit Merritt and Jean once a year, whenever I stopped by, they were always welcoming, Merritt always with something to say. I will miss that. I was out on a bike ride July 6th and I rode by the house hoping that Merritt would be on the deck. I did not see him; I rode around back hoping to see him there. The house looked too quiet to knock, I rode home thinking I would see him next time.*

*May you find peace and cherish your memories.*

*Soderholm*

*P.S. I smile every time I drive through Faribault on 35 and remember an afternoon at the go cart track, with my then 7-year-old son and several of his friends. Merritt and Jean showed a lot of patience that day.*

WP Soderholm - July 15, 2025 at 05:19 PM

SA

“ I am so blessed to have gotten to know Merritt (and Jean)!!! I LOVED listening to the endless stories of all the adventures and experiences that life had to offer. I wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't joined the Cody Rides family in 2007!!! Thank you for opening my eyes to a different way of life! Love you Merritt!!!! Until we meet again! Sabrina

Sabrina Andrew - July 15, 2025 at 06:22 AM

MF

“ We were happy to have Merritt and Deb join us at the Thursday Senior Dances at the Lenox Community Center in St. Louis Park. We especially remember enjoyable dances with Merritt and Deb, interesting conversations with Merritt, and Deb's kindness. Sincere sympathy from Merritt's Lenox friends to the Cody family. Joe and Mary Faltesek

Mary C Faltesek - July 13, 2025 at 11:43 AM

LK

“ Linda (Meka) and Michael Kahleck purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Merritt Robert Cody.



Linda (Meka) and Michael Kahleck - July 11, 2025 at 11:33 AM