

John J. Merck • 1922 - 2006

John J. Merck, 83, Minot, passed away Friday, February 17, 2006 in a Minot hospital.

He was born on June 1, 1922 in Karlsruhe, ND. He was the son of Jacob and Regina (Boehm) Merck. He was educated in Karlsruhe and worked on his parent's farm until he was drafted into the US Army in November of 1942. He was stationed at Camp Claiborne, LA for one year before he was shipped overseas with the 88th Infantry Division. He fought for two years in Italy and was honorably discharged in November of 1945.

John returned to Karlsruhe, where he was in business for 16 years. He married Jean Lauinger on January 12, 1950. They had two sons, Terry and Chuck.

In 1963, they moved to Minot. He worked for Harry's Goodyear Tire Service as a salesman for 21 years before retiring in 1984.

In retirement, he took up the game of golf and could be found on most summer days with his many friends at Souris Valley Golf Course. For ten years, John and Jean wintered in Florida, which allowed him to play year round. John was a member of Little Flower Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, Loyal Order of Moose, The Last Man's Club and the Veteran's of Foreign Wars.

John loved people and people loved John. He was extremely energetic and always the life of the party. He was devoted to his family and his religion. He loved tigers and lions, whether they were in Minot, Detroit or Baton Rouge. He was always happy, always early and always ready. On Friday, God called John to join Him in heaven. We're quite certain he's already there.

John is survived by Jean, his spouse of 56 years, sons, Terry of Houston, TX, Chuck of Minot and granddaughter, Samantha Jean Merck of Washington, DC; brothers, Frank and Christ of Minot, Fred of Bemidji, MN and Tony of Karlsruhe, ND; sisters, Eva Pinchero, Detroit, Mich, Helen Klein, Catherine Schmalz, Agnes Traiser and Regina Feist all of Minot, Maryann Burckhard and Angela Klein both of Towner, Ida Lauinger of Karlsruhe and Valeria Nystrom of Fargo, ND. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Mike.

Funeral will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2006 at Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, Minot, ND at 10:30 a.m.

Vigil Prayer service will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7 p.m. at Little Flower Roman Catholic Church, Minot.

Burial will be at the Veteran's plot at Rosehill Memorial Park, Minot.

Visitation will be on Monday from noon from 7 p.m. and Tuesday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Thompson-Larson Funeral Home, Minot. Visitation will continue from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Little Flower Catholic Church, Minot.

Memorials are preferred to the Minot Catholic Schools or the donor's choice.

Celebrants of the Liturgies: Father Fred Harvey, Father Chris B. Walter and Father David

Zimmer

Music Ministers: Jeanne Artz, John Leonard, Marie Hagen-Bourquin, and Nadine Holmly

Active Bearers: Johnny Lauinger, Mike Merck, Dennis Burckhard, Jim Klein, Jeff Merck Dean Feist

Military Honors: Members of the Minot Air Force Base Honor Guard

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