



Merle Mullikin

February 4, 1933 - May 14, 2020

Merle Mullikin, age 87, born in Limestone, February 4, 1933, was called home to be another one of God's master carpenters and teachers.

He passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2020 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee after a long illness.

His parents were Roy Mullikin & Florence Gerretse Mullikin.

Merle married Marjorie Dickman on May 29, 1952 in DeKalb, Illinois.

Surviving are his wife, Marjorie Mullikin of Kankakee; children, David Mullikin of Kankakee, Julia Mullikin of Kankakee, and Brian (Dyan) Mullikin of DeKalb; one grandson, Colton Mullikin of DeKalb; one sister, Marsha (George) Barrie of Cullom; and one special nephew, Joe (Julie) Glogowski of Kankakee.

Merle graduated from Herscher High School in 1950. In 1954, Merle earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Industrial Arts & Mathematics. He received his Master of Science in Education from NIU in 1963.

Merle was a union carpenter since 1950. He designed and built the Industrial Arts program and room at Shabbona High School in Shabbona, Illinois, where he also coached the boy's basketball, baseball, and track teams. He taught mathematics at Kankakee Junior High, Kankakee High School, and Kankakee Eastridge. When he retired from the Kankakee School District 111, he worked full time as a union carpenter for Local 496 and directed the Job Training Partnership Act through Kankakee Community College.

Merle has left his carpenter's mark throughout the community: several houses including his own, many stores at the Northfield Square Mall, the Alumni

House at Olivet Nazarene College, Ruby Tuesdays, and he proudly worked with the first carpenters who raised the first buildings of Riverside Hospital. During his years of retirement, he continued to design and create many beautiful wood projects. He also worked his crossword and Sudoku puzzles, and passionately listened to his country western music.

Merle was a member of the Aroma Park and the Kankakee Masonic Lodges. He was a former Grand Master of the Aroma Park Masonic Lodge.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Roy & Florence Mullikin; two brothers, Earl Mullikin and Allen Mullikin; one sister-in-law, Peggy Mullikin; and one nephew, Jeff Mullikin.

Memorials may be made to the family or the Kankakee Area Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a volunteer organization that builds beds for kids who are sleeping on the floor.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A private family graveside service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Herscher. Rev. Frank Warthan will officiate the service.

Arrangements by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, Kankakee.

Cemetery Details

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

Herscher, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Marge and family. I was so sorry to hear of the death of Merle. You have my deepest sympathy. Betty Robinson.* ”

Betty Robinson - May 22, 2020 at 11:37 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss, he was a very good guy.* ”

Timleutloff@hotmail.com - May 20, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ *I met Merle thru working at Rueben E. Smith R&R Inc. I worked many jobs with Merle and Al. They were both great craftsmen that took great pride in their work. They don't come great like them anymore. They both also helped me build my own home. He was a great man and a wonderful friend. I was blessed to have known him. My deepest sympathy to your family. Bill Hengl* ”

Bill (William) Hengl - May 19, 2020 at 08:37 PM



“ *Mr. Mullikin, as I knew him, was my math teacher at Kankakee Junior High. I remember him being my favorite teacher in all of my education. I was so sorry to hear he had passed. Prayers for the family 🙏* ”

Dee (Glass) Bess - May 19, 2020 at 05:21 PM



“ *I remember Merle very well my brother Richard Atkins graduated together .So sorry to hear this.Gkad he will be remember well.Prayers to all.Patricia(Atkins) LaMotte.* ”

Pat LaMotte - May 19, 2020 at 02:24 PM

SS

“ My deepest sympathies to you and your family, Marjorie! Your friend
- Sheri Schneider @ Riverside

Sheri Schneider - May 19, 2020 at 12:18 PM

DH

“ Merle was one of the best of many teachers when I attended Kankakee East Junior HS in the 60's. I returned to this area after my medical training, and I was fortunate enough to meet him again as I developed my practice. He will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to meet him, learn from him and interact with him. My condolences to his family.

Dr. Phil Hays - May 19, 2020 at 07:58 AM

RB

“ My sincere condolences to Merle's family and friends. Rest easy my dear Brother in the arms of our loving Lord, the great architect of the universe awaits you and his light will shine upon you.

*Knight of the York Cross of Honour
PM Kankakee #389 St Anne #1092*



Roland " Bogie" Boguszewski - May 18, 2020 at 10:43 PM

PW

“ Merkel was a teacher of mine when I was in Jr. High years ago Great guy. So sorry about his passing. Paul Ward

Paul Ward - May 18, 2020 at 01:19 PM

CH

“ Merle and his brother, Allen, built our home many years ago! They kept a diary of work done each day, and we paid them by the hour. We trusted them completely, and they did wonderful work. Great memories of them both--sympathy to their families! Charlene and Richard Hess

Charlene Hess - May 16, 2020 at 01:29 PM

MM

“ MR MRS sent a virtual gift in memory of Merle Mullikin



MR MRS - May 16, 2020 at 09:08 AM

HA

“ This Man was one of the best Teachers i ever had, and such a kind gentle soul. THEY DON'T MAKE THEM LIKE MERLE ANYMORE. I loved this guy.

horacio acevedo - May 15, 2020 at 02:01 PM

JK

Merle was my 7th grade Math teacher. Heart felt condolences to his wife Marge, sons David and Brian and daughter Julie. May Merle rest in easy peace. He will be missed.

John Kennedy - May 16, 2020 at 07:08 AM



Mr., Mullikin was my 7th grade math teacher and my Algebra II teacher. I was blessed to have him twice. My condolences to his family.

Bob Schneider - May 16, 2020 at 08:01 AM

BC

Merle put his teaching AND carpentry skills to work in the late 1980s as he supervised a first-job experience program for young men rehabbing houses, sponsored by KCC and Neighborhood Housing Services. Men have commented to me since how that program and Merle's guidance set them on the right path.

Bruce Cowhig - May 16, 2020 at 11:07 AM

TM

Merle was my teacher for Algebra my neighbor and a friend. He was a great carpenter and the stories he told were the best. Miss you Merle.

Tom Mascher - May 16, 2020 at 12:53 PM

WC

many good times after our work on union carpenter projects..in the late 80's early 90's....good teacher cya on the other side Bless ya Merle

Wesley (jim) Coy - May 19, 2020 at 02:55 PM

KR

Mr. Mullikin was one of my very favorite teachers in Jr. High. Condolences and love to the family. He was "one of a kind."

Karen Jackson Riml - May 19, 2020 at 06:15 PM