



Merlin Dean Statema was born February 4, 1951, to Arthur and Geraldine (Schuller) Statema in Hawarden, Iowa. He grew up and worked on the family farm and attended the Christian Reformed Church in Ireton, Iowa. Merlin married Joan Vander Weide on September 21, 1973. Two children were born of this union, Dawn Lynn and Kevin Jay. When this marriage ended, he became a single parent for a while. Merlin married Gayle Van Den Oever on June 20, 1987. One child was born of this union, Gerralyne Brianne.

Merlin worked many jobs to support his family beginning with making paint for Diamond Vogel Paint in Orange City, Iowa for 26 years and grinding cattle feed for Cleo Te Slaa. In 1998, Merlin and Gayle moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and became members of Shalom Christian Reformed Church. He worked for Americold on a forklift, drove truck for Werner, Berry Plastics on a forklift, and retired to work for Walmart.

Merlin enjoyed bowling on leagues with his own ball and shoes. He very much enjoyed driving his 1986 Dodge Ram black and silver pick-up truck with the Dukes of Hazard General Lee Mag wheel rims that he had for 20+ years. He had a knack for being able to back up any tractor and trailer perfectly every time. Merlin passed away Monday, February 23, 2026, at Pleasant Acres Care Center in Hull, Iowa at the age of 75.

Merlin is survived by his wife of 38 years, Gayle; daughters, Dawn Statema of Maurice, Iowa and Gerralyne Statema of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; son, Kevin Statema, Maurice, Iowa; sisters, Joanne (Gerald) Franken of Sioux Center, Iowa, Glenda (Gailyn) Hagena of Lennox, South Dakota, and Bonnie (Art) Boone of Sheldon, Iowa; brothers, Donald (Helen) Statema and Peter Statema both of Orange City, Iowa; sisters-in-law, Brenda (Damon) Hopson of Cleveland, Ohio and Michelle (Billy) Jansma of Ellsworth, Minnesota; brothers-in-law, Walter Van Den Oever of Brandon, South Dakota, Bryan Van Den Oever of Washington, DC, Ryan Van Den Oever of Wenatchee, Washington, and Frederick Van Den Oever of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and many nieces and nephews.

Merlin was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Geraldine Statema; first wife, Joan; parents-in-law, Walter and Berniece Van Den Oever; and sister-in-law, Nancy Statema.

Remembering the Life of Merlin Dean Statema

February 4, 1951 ~ February 23, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

1:30 PM, Friday, February 27, 2026
Porter Funeral Home
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Rev. Nathan Kuperus
Ireton Christian Reformed Church

ACCOMPANIST

Vicky Kooistra

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Amazing Grace"
"How Great Thou Art"
"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

HONORARY PALLBEARER

Kevin Statema

PALLBEARERS

Christopher Bloemendaal ~ Nathan Bloemendaal
Grant Jansma ~ Joshua Jansma
Kyle Statema ~ Paul Statema

INTERMENT

Pleasant Hill Cemetery
Ireton, Iowa

23rd Psalm

THE LORD IS MY *Shepherd*: I SHALL NOT WANT.
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES:
He leadeth me BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.
HE RESTORETH MY SOUL: HE LEADETH ME IN THE
PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
for His names sake.
YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE
SHADOW OF DEATH, *I will fear no evil:*
FOR THOU ART WITH ME: THY ROD AND
THY STAFF *they comfort me.*
THOU PREPAREST A TABLE BEFORE ME IN THE
PRESENCE OF MINE ENEMIES:
THOU ANOINTEST MY HEAD WITH OIL:
my cup runneth over.
SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW
ME ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE: AND I WILL
DWELL IN THE *house of the Lord forever.*



In Memory