

In Loving Memory



Earl Everett Rydell

January 29, 1944 – April 23, 2026

Earl Rydell, 82, of Dent, MN, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 23rd, 2026, surrounded by his family at the VA Nursing Home in Fergus Falls, MN.

Earl Everett Rydell was born on January 29, 1944, to Edwin Rydell and Phoebe (Nordly) in Breckenridge, Minnesota. He graduated from Fargo North High School and later earned his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from North Dakota State University (NDSU) in 1975.

Earl proudly served as a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force from 1966-1970, working as an Aircraft Instrument and Radar Navigation Systems Repairman. Following his Air Force service, he continued supporting the military as a naval ship weapons systems engineer with the U.S. Navy.

On December 19, 1970, Earl married the love of his life, Penny Peterson, in Fargo, North Dakota. Together they built a life filled with adventure, living in North Dakota, Minnesota, California, and Iowa before settling at their beloved lake home on Star Lake near Dent, MN, where they spent the last twenty years.

Earl worked as an electrical systems engineer for more than 30 years. His career in Avionics and Electrical Systems included roles with the Navy (4 years), FMC (8 years), Rockwell Collins (12 years), and Phoenix International/John Deere until his retirement. Throughout his career, Earl contributed to several electronic patents. After retiring, he continued serving his community as a member of the Board of Directors for Lake Region Electric Cooperative (LREC) for 15 years.

Earl was deeply involved in his community. He was an active member of the Perham Lions Club, serving in various leadership roles, including President for many years. He especially enjoyed working with the Leo Club and mentoring young members. He was also a proud member of the Dent American Legion for the last 17 years, where he served for many years as finance officer. Earl and Penny were longtime members of Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham, MN.

Earl is survived by his wife of 55 years, Penny; his children, Nicole Rydell, Joe Rydell, and Heather Rydell; and his grandchildren, Abbi (Sam) Mack and Aiden Rydell. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Harold and Harvey.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any of Earl's favorite organizations. He was an active member of both the Perham Lions Club and the Dent American Legion. Alternatively, Earl would have appreciated contributions to a military-focused charity of your choice, such as the United Service Organizations (USO), Tunnel to Towers (T2T), or Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Earl was able to remain at his lake home until nearly the end. His final week was spent at the VA Nursing Home in Fergus Falls, MN, a transition he and Penny had thoughtfully arranged in advance. The family extends their deepest gratitude to the staff for keeping Earl as comfortable as possible in his final days.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.

*He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.*

*Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,*

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,

they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

forever.



**HANSON
RUNSVOLD**
Cremation • Burial

Memorial Service

Friday, May 1, 2026 - 11:00 AM

Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home

Fargo, North Dakota

Officiant

Rev. Erin Bovendam

Congregational Hymns

Breanna Breidenbach, *Pianist*

"Amazing Grace" #343

"Battle Hymn of the Republic" #804

"To Be Alive" (Insert)

Special Music

Alex Rydell, *Violinist*

"On Eagle's Wings"

Honorary Pallbearers

Joseph Rydell - Aiden Rydell - Samuel Mack

Military Honors

US Air Force

Fargo Memorial Honor Guard

Interment

Friday, May 1, 2026 - 2:00 PM

Fargo National Cemetery

Harwood, North Dakota

All are invited to a luncheon following the service.