

Merle Matzke, age 89, passed peacefully surrounded by family, in the early morning of Monday, June 15, 2026.

He was born January 3, 1937, in Winona MN, to Willard and Lois (Brown) Matzke and attended school there, graduating from Winona High School in 1954. On August 10, 1957, he married Lorraine Sackreiter at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Lewiston, MN. He was an owner of Matzke Concrete Block, in Goodview, MN, for many years and a longtime member and council member of Goodview Lutheran Church. He loved golfing with Lorraine, volunteering at the Minnesota Marine Museum, and supported the Let's Go Fishing organization for many years.

Merle is survived by two brothers, Gordon and Gary; his daughter, Vicki, and son-in-law, Alan, of Dent, son Robert, daughter-in-law, Kim, of Brandon, SD, and Richard and daughter-in-law Janice, of Richmond, VA; six grandchildren: Andy (Brooke Hamann) of Perham, Todd (Chelsey) of Watkins, Amy (Noel Fawcett) of Norfolk, VA, Dani of Minneapolis, Chris (Angela) of Sterling, VA, and Shana of Brandon, SD; and eight great-grandchildren: Kadence, Jack, Lucy, Skylar, Delilah, Beatrix, Waylon, and Henry.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Lorraine, his parents, brother Warren, sister Marilyn Koscianski, and longtime friend and brother-in-law, Hank.

Merle lived in Winona his entire life until he moved to Hadley House in Perham, MN, in 2022. The Matzke family would like to give a special thank you to the staff there for filling Merle's last years with laughter and loving care.



In Loving
M E M O R Y



Merle W. Matzke

January 3, 1937 - June 15, 2026

If I could write from *Heaven*
this is what I'd say,

Please don't miss me too much,

I'm with you throughout your day.

You may not see or hear me,

but if you're quiet and still,

You may just **FEEL MY PRESENCE;**

because, in Heaven, there is free will.

Don't worry for the day,

it will come and go as planned,

Enjoy each moment you are given,
keep worry from your hand.

Keep sorrow to a minimum;

For if Heaven you could see,

You'd know I'm **SAFE AND HAPPY,**

I did not cease to be.

Moments in time are brief,

until we'll be together again,

as *Eternity lasts Forever,*
our lives, they have no end.

Graveside Service

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 at 2:00pm

Woodlawn Cemetery

Winona, Minnesota

Celebration of Life

Following Graveside Service

Holzinger Lodge

Winona, Minnesota

Officiated by

Pastor Tom Schneider

Musicians

Merle's Great Grandchildren

Casket Bearers

Andy Todd

Amy Dani

Chris Shana