



## **Frank Mathew Merchen**

Frank Merchen was born July 5, 1935, in Murdo, SD, to James and Margret (Gibson) Merchen. Frank was the oldest of 10 children; 6 brothers and 3 sisters. Frank grew up in the Norris and Martin, SD, areas. He attended Bennett County High School. He excelled at playing football and track. Frank also loved to soup up cars for racing at the Martin Race Track. He did this with his brothers.

Frank graduated from Bennett County High School in 1955. He served in the US Army from 1958 to 1960. Prior to working at Homestake Mine, he worked as a logger, ranch hand, and mechanic along with other job titles.

Frank met and married his wife, Betty Jean Smith, in 1962. They adopted Loren Merchen in 1967. They took in Klover and Marilyn Standing Bear in 1985. They also cared for Vivian Standing Bear in 1986.

Frank really enjoyed fishing, hunting, "mechanicing," playing cards, dancing, gardening, canning, and spending time with family and friends.

Frank Mathew Merchen, 83, Whitewood, died Sunday, August 19, 2018, at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Fort Meade.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jean Merchen; son, Loren Merchen; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; five brothers, Jim, Lynn, Clayton, Ralph and Lawrence Merchen; and two sisters, Margaret Pike and Kathy Merchen.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Eldon; and one sister, Florence.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).



*The family would you to join them for fellowship and lunch in the church hall following the service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*

*In Loving Memory Of*



***Frank Mathew Merchen***

***1935 ~ 2018***



### ***The Broken Chain***

*Little did we know that morning,  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly.  
In death we do the same.*

*It broke our hearts to lose you.  
You did not go alone,  
for part of us went with you  
the day God called you home.*

*You left us peaceful memories.  
Your love is still our guide.  
And though we cannot see you,  
you are always at our side.*

*Our family chain is broken  
and nothing seems the same,  
but as God calls us one by one,  
the Chain will link again.*

***In Loving Memory Of***

## ***Frank Mathew Merchen***

### ***Born***

July 5, 1935  
Murdo, South Dakota

### ***Died***

August 19, 2018  
Fort Meade, South Dakota

### ***Funeral Service***

Friday, August 24, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Officiant***

Pastor Nick Haasch

### ***Musical Selections***

“You Are the Way” “Amazing Grace”  
“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb”

### ***Pallbearers***

Ty Stilwell ~ Nik Stilwell ~ Troy Merchen  
Jaered Merchen ~ Matt Merchen ~ LaVerl Merchen  
Ed Merchen ~ Chad Elrod

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

All Family and Friends

### ***Interment***

Whitewood Cemetery  
Whitewood, South Dakota