



Merrill Otto Dierker

December 12, 1938 - April 9, 2025

Merrill Otto Dierker, 86, of Havana, Illinois, formerly of Petersburg, Illinois, passed away on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the Regency Nursing Home in Springfield, Illinois. He was born December 12, 1938, to Otto and Helen (nee Imig) Dierker in Pekin, Illinois.

Merrill graduated from Forman High School. He then attended the University of Illinois where he was a member of the fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho and graduated with a bachelor's degree. He later served our grateful nation by joining the United States Air Force where he became a captain at a young age. He was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Petersburg. He worked for MAPCO, a fertilizer and oil company, in Athens, Illinois, and then Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he was an executive. He was also a farmer for many years in the Forest City and Havana area.

Merrill is survived by his children, Derek (Sally) Dierker, Lance Dierker and Debra (Mark) Richardson; his grandchildren, Jonathan Stevens, Samantha Stevens, Julia Dierker, Seth Dierker, Hope Dierker and Noah Dierker; his great grandchildren, Ilya and Atlas Dierker; his sister, Luellen (Bob) Betzelberger; a sister-in-law, Jane Dierker; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce (nee Wilson) Dierker; his parents; and his brother, Lendell Dierker.

A private family graveside service will be held at Allens Grove Cemetery near San Jose, Illinois, with Pastor Jeffrey Gross officiating. Military rites will be performed by the American Legion Post 138 and the VFW Post 6408 at the cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Fulton County, 22988 IL-9, Canton, Illinois 61520.

Hurley Funeral Home in Havana is assisting Merrill's family with arrangements. Please visit Merrill's online obituary at hurleyfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Allen's Grove Cemetery

15757 N. CR 3600 E.
San Jose, IL 63682

Tribute Wall



“ Sorry to hear about your loss.
I enjoyed my candid talks with Merrill.
I know he Loved his children and grandchildren.
My Prayers are with you Derek, Debbie and Lance during this time.
Clyde Ferree

Clyde Ferree Jr. - April 19, 2025 at 01:23 PM

RQ

“ RON AND BARB QUINONES lit a candle in
memory of Merrill Dierker



RON AND BARB QUINONES - April 11, 2025 at 10:42 AM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in
memory of Merrill Dierker



Larry and Mary Hundt - April 11, 2025 at 08:28 AM

BO

“Merrill and a group of us all had a lot of fun and laughs together at Gilmores through the years. Merrill was always very bright and wise, and a faithful friend. He had a deep love for Jesus, and for his wife who preceded him in death. They are together again and I hope they are having a great time in the Heavenly place of peace and no more tears. My prayers and sincere condolences to his family.

Barbara Oglesby - April 10, 2025 at 08:50 PM

RG

“Derek, Debbie, and Lance Our condolences to you and your family on your loss. May God's blessings bring you comfort and strength during this difficult time. Robert and Christina Griffin



Robert Griffin - April 10, 2025 at 05:40 PM

CH

“My sincere condolences to Merrill's family. May our Lord bring peace and comfort to you all.
Love, Cheryl

cheryl Harfst - April 10, 2025 at 10:43 AM

LT

“Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompson lit a candle in memory of Merrill Dierker



Lisa Jill Ulrich Thompson - April 10, 2025 at 10:20 AM

RS

“ *Derek and family, We are very sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. He was a friend to me for many years. Our deepest sympathy to your family. Rick and Karen Setzer*

Rick Setzer - April 10, 2025 at 10:05 AM