

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF....

Merle Widley, 87, Hunter, ND died on Thursday, Aug. 2, 2018 at Essentia Health, Fargo, ND.

Merle Allen Widley was born March 18, 1931 near Hunter, ND to Theodore and Lillian (Hanson) Widley. He grew up on the family farm in Bohnsack Township of Traill County. He graduated from the Bohnsack Rural School. His father died in 1948 at which time Merle began farming at the age of 17. He married Phyllis Kennedy on June 27, 1954 in Hunter. They farmed at Hunter for many years, retiring in 1998.

He served on the Dakota School Board, Hunter Grain Board, Green Field Township Board and First Lutheran Church Board and Council.

Merle enjoyed time with his children and grandchildren, reading historical books and biographies, watching reruns of "MASH" and watching basketball games. He loved sitting in the back row at church watching his wife play the organ and giving candy to the children who knew he always had some in his pockets. In recent years, he and Phyllis enjoyed visits from the young children of the child care center in Hunter when they stopped at the house while on their daily walks. Merle remained a farmer at heart and enjoyed driving the countryside looking at the crops.

He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; three daughters, Robyn Widley, St. Paul, MN, Lori Jo (Dan) Plambeck, Fargo and Julie (Brian) Schnell, Edina, MN; six grandchildren, John, Jesse and Stephanie Plambeck, Hayley (Tyler) Erstad, Jordie and Jaime Schnell; sister, Jeanne Zimmerman, Grand Forks, ND; sisters-in-law, Audrey Binger, West Fargo, ND and Roberta (Leo) Pulskamp, Grand Rapids, MN; and several nieces and nephews.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents; son, Brian; and brothers-in-law, Jim Binger and LaVern Zimmerman.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the First Lutheran Church in Hunter or the charity of your choice.

*The family wishes to extend their
heartfelt thanks to the Hunter Ambulance
Service for their kindness and care.*



IN LOVING MEMORY

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MERLE WIDLEY



FUNERAL SERVICE

First Lutheran Church

Hunter, North Dakota

Monday, August 6, 2018 - 2:00 p.m.

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Trichelle Kirchenwitz

Robyn Widley, *eulogy*

Dan Plambeck, *reader*

MUSIC

Christy Larson, *soloist*

"Amazing Grace"

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Teresa Buntrock, *organist*

Congregational Hymns:

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"

"How Great Thou Art"

PALLBEARERS

All of Merle's Grandchildren

INTERMENT

Hunter Cemetery

Hunter, ND

*The family wishes to express their appreciation for
your kindness and support during this difficult time.
Please join them for fellowship following the burial.*



DO NOT STAND AT MY
GRAVE AND WEEP,
I AM NOT THERE,
I DO NOT SLEEP.
I AM A THOUSAND
WINDS THAT BLOW;
I AM THE DIAMOND
GLINTS ON SNOW.
I AM THE SUNLIGHT
ON RIPENED GRAIN;

I AM THE GENTLE AUTUMN'S RAIN.

WHEN YOU AWAKEN IN THE MORNING'S HUSH,

I AM THE SWIFT UPLIFTING RUSH

OF QUIET BIRDS IN CIRCLED FLIGHT.

I AM THE SOFT STAR THAT SHINES AT NIGHT.

DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND CRY.

I AM NOT THERE; I DID NOT DIE.

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