

Merlyn Gunsch – BS 1962 Pharmacy

Merlyn O. Gunsch, 81, Lewistown, MT, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Nov. 12, 2017 at EMVH. Cause of death was complications due to a brain aneurysm and subsequent strokes. Merlyn was born August 6, 1936 in Bismarck, ND the first of 3 children born to Otto & Rose Marie (Wentz) Gunsch. He attended elementary and secondary schools in Elgin, ND.

Merlyn served 4 years in the United States Navy. He attended the College of Pharmacy at North Dakota State University and Graduate School in Chemistry at Montana State University. Dad owned and operated the Rexall Drug Store in Malta, MT and the Seeley Lake Pharmacy in Seeley Lake, MT. He then went to work for the Indian Health Service from which he retired in June 2000. Dad had a great love of the outdoors, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, back packing and camping, and he passed this love on to his kids.

Merlyn is survived by his 4 children, Robert (Tami) Gunsch of Circle, MT; Gretchen (Harve) Kimm of Manhattan, MT; William (Tara) Gunsch of Belgrade, MT; David (Sheryl) Gunsch of E. Helena, MT; a brother, Richard (Marilyn) Gunsch of Bismarck, ND; a sister, Kathy Decker of Laguna Beach, CA; 8 grandchildren, Courtney (Chad), Anthony, Stephanie (Brandon), Reece, Bridger (Johna), Madison, Nicholas & Hunter; 7 great-grandchildren, Bethany, Tucker, Braelynn, Brantley, Audrey, Blaiz & Maggie; his "favorite" niece, Dayna (Andrew Maltin) Decker; his god-daughter, Lori; and nephews, Dan, Merle and Michael. He loved all of you very much.

He was preceded in death by his father, Otto Gunsch; his mother, Rose Marie (Wentz) Gunsch; several uncles and aunts; and niece, Sandra.

Merlyn always said that of all his experiences, military service was his greatest and best. He was a very proud veteran. He will be buried in the Veterans Section of the Lewistown City Cemetery with Military Honors presented by the U.S. Navy Honor Guard and the Fergus Post #16 American Legion Honor Guard.

Viewing at the Creel Funeral Home Chapel will be Friday, November 17th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Graveside Services at the Lewistown City Cemetery will be Saturday, November 18th, at 11:00 a.m. followed by a brunch at the American Legion Club. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Fergus Post #16 American Legion, 402 W. Main St., Lewistown, MT 59457.

Arrangements are under the care of Creel Funeral Home.