



MERLIN "RED" KLEIN

March 3, 1935 - December 30, 2018

Merlin J. (Red) Klein, 83, passed away peacefully on December 30, 2018 at Tweeten Memory Care in Spring Grove. Merlin was born in Caledonia to Steve and Justina (Weis) Klein on March 3, 1935. Following his graduation from Caledonia High School, he farmed with his father until taking over the 4th generation family farm. On December 5, 1969, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Merlin married the love of his life, Lois (Schulze). Lois later affectionately cared for him as long as she physically could thru his battle with Alzheimer's. They had 3 children, Linda, Jacqueline, and Julie.

Merlin was a lifetime member of St. Mary's Parish. He was a dairy farmer and loved his animals with many of them becoming his pets. With retirement from farming, he was a maintenance person/groundskeeper at Camp Winnebago and later drove bus for Schmitz Bus Service where he enjoyed the kids who were on his route. Red was known for his excellent trapshooting skills and knowledge of guns. He enjoyed bowling, trapshooting, hunting big and small game throughout the years (moose, elk, bear, deer, turkey, and squirrel), fishing and actively participating in these activities with his daughters. Red loved his family and his grandchildren very much.

Merlin was preceded in death by his daughter Jacqueline, his parents, sister Winifred (Chuck) Sheehan, brothers Gaylord and Miles Klein, mother and father-in-law Ormond and Vilas Schulze, sister-in-law Darlene(Richard) Mickelberg, brothers-in-law Richard Schulze, Larry Schulze, Roger Schulze, Richard Popp, and Arden Krueger Jr.

Merlin is survived by his wife Lois, daughters Linda (Mark) Coffield and Julie (Brian) Olinger, grandchildren Collin (Elissa) Coffield, Carson Coffield, Sierra Olinger and Brayden Olinger, brothers-in-law Kenneth (Dorothy Kruse) Schulze, Robert (Judy) Schulze, sisters-in-law Shirley Schulze, Mary Popp, Diane Schulze, Leigh Schulze Goetzinger and Virginia Klein, along with many nieces and nephews.

Merlin will be deeply missed by his family and all that knew him.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11 am on Saturday, January 5, 2019 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Caledonia. Father Thomas Jennings will officiate and burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Caledonia. Visitation will be Friday from 4-7 pm, at St. Mary's Holy Family Hall, with a prayer service at 7 pm. Visitation will also be from 10-11 am Saturday morning before the service at the church.

Comments



“ Carol and Greg Zumach :

So very sorry to hear of your loss Lois you and your family have our sympathy.

Carol Zumach - January 07, 2019 at 01:43 AM



“ Deepest sympathy to the family. Very sorry for your loss.

Duane Kinneberg - January 06, 2019 at 08:30 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of MERLIN "RED" KLEIN.



January 03, 2019 at 05:55 PM



“ Linda and family, although it has be a long, long time, as soon as I saw you dad's smiling face on his obituary picture, I IMMEDIATELY remembered a number of impressions from my teenage years, being accepted into the folks of the Midway Sportsmen's club (Spring Grove and Mabel primarily) and the new accepting group of sportsmen and trap shooters.

I was 13 or so and more of a non-animal mascot than anything else, but I was recruited by my club to start shooting and traveling to Caledonia, Winona, Decorah and other exotic places with gunpowder in the air breathed by men of good nature and sterling character. I must have been 20 years younger than the next youngest shooter and was doted on, coached, lovingly chided and generally accepted into an august group of adults through no act of my own.

I seem to remember your dad shot with a low power scope, as did many of the Caledonia shooters, and actually let me try using his gun while defending his 'honor' from others who jokingly deemed using scopes as less than manly. I was in heaven. I also recall he and other Caledonia guys (who's range was in a valley with a near constant wind sweeping at the shooter and making the clay pidgeon fly wildly depending on the wind.

I got irritated after 'whiffing' about 8 in a row and so on my last shot, waited out the wind and the target that rose at about a 90 degree angle and finally stopped for a second and just sort of dangled, where I blasted it, nearly stopped and about 20 yards away, and blew it to dust.

Your dad and friends howled with laughter but decided that the shot counted on my score after serious discussion, and also decided I didn't need a scope on my shotgun if I was sneaky enough to wait until my clay pidgeons went to roost before shooting them.

Bless the memory of your dad, a true MAN among men in my memory. A young kid, even from another town, could always profit from guys like that in his life.

Sorry for the length of this remembrance, but those memories can washing bac from about 1963 and I couldn't help but share them.

Larry Vongroven

Larry Vongroven - January 01, 2019 at 08:27 PM



“ I just posted on you wall! I know this story

Linda Coffield - January 02, 2019 at 12:59 AM



“ Oh my gosh- thank you so much for sharing your story. It truly means alot

Julie Olinger - January 02, 2019 at 01:38 AM



“ My uncle taught me many things including how to shoot safely, hunt, and to work first & then have fun. He showed me how to love life & to do your best not to hurt anyone. I enjoyed helping out with chores at the farm. I distinctly remember doing chores the week when Merlin & Lois got married. I'll always remember that smile & that twinkle in his eyes. He had many accomplishments, but his favorite had to be his wonderful family.
Mitch & Sue Sheehan



Mitch & Sue Sheehan - January 01, 2019 at 04:31 PM



“ He loved you a lot Mick! He looked forward to your visits/company

Linda Coffield - January 02, 2019 at 01:00 AM



“ Thank you so much Mick! He always enjoyed your visits.

Julie Olinger - January 02, 2019 at 01:34 AM



“ Thinking of the Klein & Schulze family during this time of great loss...

Dave & Wilma Schoh - January 01, 2019 at 03:23 PM



“ Thank you so much! I know you have been through this but it sill seams strange to see your own parent listed here

Linda Coffield - January 02, 2019 at 01:02 AM



“ Thank you so much

Julie Olinger - January 02, 2019 at 01:39 AM