



## Merle W. Ballou Jr.

April 21, 1927 - January 17, 2014

Merle W. Ballou, Jr., 86 year old resident of Randall, MN passed away Friday, January 17, 2014 in Randall, MN. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 23, 2014 at the Randall Presbyterian Church in Randall, MN with Rev. Rob Bellin officiating. Burial will take place in the Randall City Cemetery in Randall, MN. Friends may call from 4-7 P.M. on Wednesday and from 9:30-10:30 A.M. on Thursday at the Randall Presbyterian Church in Randall, MN. Arrangements are with Shelley Funeral Chapel in Little Falls.

Merle was born on April 21, 1927 to the late Merle and Mabel (Betts) Ballou on the family farm outside of Randall, MN. He was united in marriage to Harriet Tompkins on June 21, 1950 in a small country church in Culdrum Township, Morrison County. On January 16, 1951 Merle enlisted into the US Army and honorably served until his honorable discharge on August 16, 1952. In 1966 Merle opened Ballou Plumbing and Heating where he was the proud owner and boss for many years. His keen wit and vast knowledge of the plumbing and heating industry was unlimited. Merle made many friends with employees, customers, wholesale reps, and other business owners. He and Harriet enjoyed having breakfast with the salesmen that would come early in the day to see him. Merle loved and spent many hours talking on the phone doing "research" as he would call it. In his free time Merle enjoyed hunting, fishing, bird watching, traveling, and restoring old things that were broken. Merle loved his grandchildren and occasionally would have to give them a

“proper” send off, and was also known to give them advice on how to improve their life. He also loved his great-grandchildren and was a little easier on them. Merle was member of the Randall VFW, Charter Member of the Randall-Cushing Lions and a supporter of the Randall Presbyterian Church. Merle is survived by his children, Duane (Sharon) Ballou of Randall, MN, David Ballou of Randall, MN, Diane (Terry) Balaski of Randall, MN, and Doug Ballou & fiancé Pat Schmid of Randall, MN; brothers, Fred (Bonnie) Ballou, Norman Ballou, and Marvin Ballou; 19 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren.

Merle was preceded in death by wife, Harriet Ballou; and parents, Merle and Mable Ballou.

Casketbearers will be Merle’s grandchildren.

# Cemetery Details

## Randall Cemetery

22806 Dove Road  
Randall, MN 56475

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Randall Presbyterian Church  
217 1st Street  
Randall, MN

## Visitation

JAN **23**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Randall Presbyterian Church  
217 1st Street  
Randall, MN

## Service

JAN **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Randall Presbyterian Church  
217 1st Street  
Randall, MN



# Tribute Wall



“ *Merle W. Ballou Jr.*

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *Merle was not only incredibly knowledgeable about his trade, he was a philosopher and humorist on a par with all the greats this planet ever produced. I have spread Merle's legend to many folks through the years and will continue to do so.*

*Sid Olso*

**Sid Olson** - May 29, 2015 at 02:52 PM



“ *One of the smartest men I every knew. I'll miss your salute every time I saw you. God's got a great handyman now.*

*Jerry Peterschick*

**Jerry Peterschick** - January 22, 2014 at 11:42 AM



“ *AMAZING MAN....I will miss him!*

**Kristin Jackson Fregin** - January 20, 2014 at 08:41 PM



*A man with a huge heart and always put others first! Was like a part of our family when I was growing up. Rest in Peace Merle!*  
*Keri Johnson*

**Keri Johnson** - January 21, 2014 at 02:29 PM

YK

“ Yvonne And Craig Kempenich lit a candle in memory of Merle W. Ballou Jr.



Yvonne and Craig Kempenich - January 20, 2014 at 07:26 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Merle W. Ballou Jr..



January 20, 2014 at 03:40 PM

 Brenda Waltman

“ It was a pleasure to know Merle. He was an exceptional Father and Grandfather to his family. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family especially Diane who has been there every step of the way. I love you Di!!!

Brenda Waltman - January 20, 2014 at 10:30 AM

DN

“ Merle will be greatly missed by all. He was very knowledgeable about the plumbing and air conditioning environment and it was always a joy to sit and talk with him from time to time. Sandy and my condolences go out to his family In their time of sorrow.

*Dan and Sandy Noss*

Dan and Sandy Noss - January 19, 2014 at 07:18 PM

MJ

“ I worked for Merle for a year. The plumbing and heating industry lost a legend. Every time I see a folding rule I think of Merle.

mike j - January 18, 2014 at 09:26 PM

MS

“ I remember as a child always going to the Randall Café with grandpa and grandma every morning and always visiting with Merle, he was always so much fun to talk, and he of course was always eating his extra burnt English muffin. My thoughts are with you Diane and family.

Misty Selinski - January 18, 2014 at 05:08 PM

KS

“ For about 20 years Merle never failed to remind me that it was "hump Day". Wednesdays will never be the same. Miss him greatly.  
Kim Schultz



kim Schultz - January 18, 2014 at 08:05 AM

SW

“ I just want to say Merle was such a nut. It was always such a pleasure to run into him and have a conversation with him , he always made you smile . Diane you are such a wonderful daughter, you were always there for your dad and took such great care of him he was so lucky to have you . I know how much you loved him just by the way you talked about him and was always there for him. Jeremy you were a wonderful grandson also your grandpa loved you very much! My heart goes out you and your whole family . love ya!!

Sherri Weikert - January 17, 2014 at 05:51 PM

JB

“ *Thoughts & prayers to Merle's family!! He will always have a special place in our hearts. He was not just family, also, a good friend. I really enjoyed my time working for Merle!! He was a rare & special man. Rest In Peace Merle!!*



---

**Jeri Betts** - January 17, 2014 at 03:34 PM