

Merill R. Kiehne passed away peacefully at Windmill Ponds in Alexandria MN on July 11th 2022. Merill, son of Myrtle (Hanson) and Otto Kiehne is the second youngest of 5 children and grew up in the farming community of Holmes City, located west of Alexandria.

During Merill's early years he worked on the family farm and performed other odd jobs to help the family make ends meet during the Great Depression. He married June Gullgren in 1943 and moved into a cabin at Geneva Lodge which was owned and operated by June's parents, Myrtle & Frank Gullgren. Merill & June continued to live and work at Geneva Lodge while their two sons, Jerry and Thomas, were born. During that period, Merill started working in the construction field building homes with Walter Westlund. Using experience gained while working construction, Merill built his first house on the corner of 12th Ave and Jefferson Street where his two daughters Cheryl and Jilleen were born.

By 1948 the post-war construction industry had thrived and Merill started building a series of several personal homes on Westwood Drive. During evenings and into the late night he would build and weatherproof the basement of a home which the family would then occupy while continuing to complete the upstairs construction during his off[1]work hours. Shortly after completing a home he would start the process all over again and this continued throughout the construction of 4 homes on Westwood Drive in Alexandria.

After Walter Westlund, Merill worked for Earl Drussell Construction advancing his career to foreman and management. Home building advanced into commercial construction which included projects such as Alexandria Downtown Liquor (end of Broadway), Washington Elementary School expansion project, Lincoln Elementary School, Jefferson High School expansion project, Alexandria Community and Technical College, and many other banks, schools, and commercial establishments in Douglas and surrounding counties.

In the late 1960's June and Merill decided that he needed to get into an occupation that offered a more secure future for retirement. He applied for and was hired by Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District (ALASD). ALASD sent Merill to school where he received his Class A License. He remained with ALASD for nearly 20 years advancing through many upward mobility positions before retiring in 1984.

June's deteriorating lung disease created a need for continuous caregiving, which Merill did unselfishly, for 24 years, until June's passing in 2008. During those years of caregiving and maintaining their home on 8th Ave East, Merill planted and maintained a raspberry garden which earned him the nickname of "The Raspberry Man" in Alexandria. Merill is survived by three children; Jerry (Patricia) Kiehne of Punta Gorda, FL, Thomas (Pam) Kiehne of Austin, TX, and Jilleen (Warren) Lagerquist of Spicer, MN; a sister, Lois Rosenquist of Alexandria, MN; 10 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, and 1 great, great grandchild. He was preceded in death by his wife June, a daughter Cheryl Brennan, a brother Harold, and sisters Ruth, and Lorraine.

For Those I Love, For Those Who Love Me...

When I am gone, release me, let me go...

I have so many things to see and do.

You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,

But let my spirit calm your fears,

I gave you my love. You can only guess

How much you gave me in happiness.

I thank you for the love you have shown,

But now it's time I traveled on alone!

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,

Then let your grief be comforted by trust.

It's only for a while that we must part,

So bless the memories that lie within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on.

So if you need me, call and I will come.

Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near,

And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear

All of my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone...

I'll greet you with a smile and say,

"Welcome Home."

In Memory of **Merill Reuben Kiehne**

November 2, 1921



July 11, 2022

Funeral Service

Anderson Funeral Home

Alexandria, Minnesota

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

11:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Kali Christensen

Music

Scars In Heaven ~ Casting Crowns

I'll See You Again ~ Westlife

Save A Place For Me ~ Matthew West

Casket Bearers

Chad Cooper

Nathan Aspelin

Jeff Kiehne

Pam Kartlick

Thomas Kiehne

Steven Kiehne

Interment

Kinkead Cemetery

Alexandria, Minnesota