



Merle John Koedam, son of William and Gertrude (Klarenbeek) Koedam, was born December 12, 1946, at Armour, South Dakota. He spent time during his childhood living near Luverne, Minnesota, Hawarden, Iowa and Pipestone, Minnesota, working on the family farm with his parents and siblings. Eventually, Merle settled in Alvor, Iowa. Merle proudly served in the United States Marine

Corps from January 7, 1966 – January 6, 1968, during the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps, Merle returned home and met Ruth Sieler. Merle and Ruth were united in marriage at a small chapel in Minnesota on November 15, 1968. They first lived in Rock Rapids, Iowa before returning to Alvor.

Throughout his entire life Merle was extremely hard working. Whether he was farming, driving truck, or his 16 years as Lyon County Supervisor, Merle was always doing something or helping someone. One of his greatest joys was being a father figure and helping raise 9 of his nieces and nephews and eventually being a grandfather figure to their children. Merle was a member of the First Christian Reformed Church of Rock Valley where he served two terms as an elder. He also belonged to the American Legion Dick De Boer Post 704 where he served as a past post commander. Merle died Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the age of 76.

Merle is survived by his wife of 54 years, Ruth; 9 nieces and nephews whom he treated like his own children, Venus, Heather, Billy, Jason, Joe, Kim, Jennie, Rowena, and Dawn; 5 grandchildren, Quentin, Austin, Sierra, Faith, and Addie; and 4 siblings, Shirley (Arnie) Van Voorst of Inwood, Iowa, Wes (Marge) Koedam of Alvor, Gloria (Mike) Bomgaars of Inwood, and Kenny (Amy) Koedam of Inwood.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Gertrude Koedam; and brother, Vern (Laura) Koedam.

*In Loving Memory*  
**Merle John Koedam**  
*December 12, 1946 ~ April 22, 2023*

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

10:30 AM, Thursday, April 27, 2023  
First Christian Reformed Church  
Rock Valley, Iowa

**OFFICIATING**

Rev. Matthew Haan

**PIANIST**

Carisa Maassen

**CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS**

*“When Peace Like a River”*

*“Precious Memories”*

*“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*

*“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”*

**HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Quentin Sieler ~ Austin Sieler

**PALLBEARERS**

Jason Koedam ~ Clinton Koedam

Chad Koedam ~ Barry Bomgaars

Joel Koedam ~ Bill Koedam

**MILITARY RITES**

United States Marine Corps Honor Guard  
American Legion Post 0704 Dick De Boer (Alvor)  
American Legion Post 0321 Pfarrer Fox (Rock Valley)

**INTERMENT**

Valley View Cemetery  
Rock Valley, Iowa

*Merle’s family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall following the committal service.*

## *Precious Memories*

*Precious memories, unseen angels  
Sent from somewhere to my soul  
How they linger, ever near me  
And the sacred past unfolds*

*Precious memories, how they linger  
How they ever flood my soul  
In the stillness, of the midnight  
Precious sacred scenes unfold*

*Precious father, loving mother  
Fly across the lonely years  
And old home scenes, of my childhood  
In fond memory appears*

*Precious memories, how they linger  
How they ever flood my soul  
In the stillness, of the midnight  
Precious sacred scenes unfold*

*I remember, mother prayin'  
Father too, on bended knee  
The sun is sinkin', shadows fallin'  
But their prayers still follow me*

*Precious memories, how they linger  
How they ever flood my soul  
In the stillness, of the midnight  
Precious sacred scenes unfold  
Precious memories fill my soul*



## *In Honored Memory*