

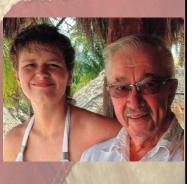
My mind knows that you are gone, but my heart will not accept it: You honored God with the life you lived, I know you don't regret it: To your country, you gave your best and we thank you for your sacrifice, To your family, you were provider, protector, and the spice of life. We miss you already, and know that we will never be the same. I will cry, laugh, and be insanely proud each time I hear your name.

You meant so much to so many that the impact of how you lived will be felt for generations. So, Thank you for what you have given. We refuse to say "goodbye", only "until we meet again". We hold out hope that one sweet day, we'll be reunited in Heaven. We salute your Life and honor you in memories great and small.

Though we will always miss you and what you mean to us all.

Dear Jesus.

Please take my Grandpa's spirit and make him happy. I have him in my heart. ~Jace Keeping



Merle Sagen, 76, of Lake Park, MN and longtime employee of David-Donehower Funeral Home, passed away at his home on Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Merle Emmett Sagen was born on September 6, 1943, in Syre, MN, to Judien and Florence (Ovaldson) Sagen. He grew up in Twin Valley, MN and graduated with the class of 1961. On June 20, 1961, Merle enlisted with the United States Army as a paratrooper in the 101st airborne division. He served during the Bay of Pigs, also known as the Cuban crisis. Merle was honorably discharged on June 19, 1964.

Merle married Doris Marks on December 18, 1965 and they had three children, Guy, Dorinda, and Byron. The couple later divorced. Merle started working for the Minnesota Highway department in Crookston, MN as a laborer later transferring to Saint Paul as a traffic controller. He then moved to Detroit Lakes around 1967 and worked in the sign shop for the Minnesota Highway Department. In 2000, he retired as supervisor of the sign shop. Merle joined the Detroit Lakes Fire Department in 1972. Throughout Merle's career with the fire department, he served as assistant Fire Chief, held a spot on the dive team, served as an EMT, and instructed CPR. He retired in June of 1994 from the fire department. Merle then began working for David-Donehower Funeral Home on November 15, 2001. He was still working at the funeral home until May of 2020 when health issues forced him to stay home. He worked as a well-respected funeral attendant over the years. Families knew and trusted him. He kept the funeral home clean, neat, organized and free of bugs in the lights. Words cannot express how much we will miss him, or how much we learned from him.

Merle was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post #15, having served as Past Post Commander and Past Post Adjutant of the 9th District. He was also a lifetime member of Post #181 of Lake Park. MN an Eagles member and a member of the Elks. Merle was not a member of enough organizations, so he became a member of the Lake Region Color guard becoming one of the founding members of the Veterans golf classic, that raised money for the Veterans homes in Fargo and Fergus Falls. He was instrumental in bringing the dialysis unit to Detroit Lakes for his fellow veterans to stay close to home and receive dialysis. Merle was engaged in bringing the Alzheimer's wing to Emmanuel Nursing home and was extremely proud to be a veteran and always looked at ways he could help his fellow comrades.

Merle was the perfect definition of a "Family man". He was a friend to many and a stranger to none. The personal relationships that he made throughout his life were the most valuable of his possessions. Not only was he always more than willing to lend a helping hand, donate time or volunteer his talents, he was a kind and talented man that loved his family deeply. He enjoyed hunting in his deer stand that he built for luxury naps, golfing, fishing with the kids and grandkids, snowmobiling, traveling and going to Laughlin, NV to the casino.

On July 16, 1994, Merle married his soulmate Phyllis Keeping at First Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN. They lived in Detroit Lakes, MN, until retiring on Bijou Lake.

He is survived by his best friend and wife of 26 years, Phyllis; children Guy (Karen) Sagen, Dorinda (Miles) Triebenbach, Byron (Leslie) Sagen, step-son Darin (Holly) Keeping; grandchildren Dillion Sagen, Andrew and Alexis Triebenbach, Taylor, Cody, and Katie Sagen; step-grandchildren Trevor Dahl, Jace Keeping, and Riley Keeping; 3 step-great grandchildren; favorite protective dog Dusty; numerous friends and co-workers.

He is preceded in death by his parents Judien and Florence; and brother Jerome Sagen. DAVID-DONEHOWER

Honoring a Life Well Lived



Merle Sagen









Merle Emmett Sagen

September 6, 1943 - July 21, 2020



Funeral Service Monday, July 27, 2020 - 11:00 A.M. David-Donehower Funeral Home Detroit Lakes, Minnesota Jim Greene, *Officiant*

> *Readers* Alexis and Taylor

Special Music Kim Schnitzer, Soloist

Casket Bearers Guy Sagen, Byron Sagen, Darin Keeping, Dillion Sagen, Andrew Triebenbach, Cody Sagen, John Syvertson, and Michael Syvertson

> Honorary Bearers Detroit Lakes Fire Department Lakes Region Area Color Guard Veterans Golf Classic Committee Zingers

Interment Veteran's Memorial Garden Twin Valley, Minnesota



Firefighters Prayer

When I am called to duty, God, Wherever flames may rage Give me the strength to save some life Whatever be its age.

> Let me embrace a little child Before it is too late Or save an older person from The horror of that fate.

Enable me to be alert And hear the weakest shout And quickly and efficiently To put the fire out.

I want to fill my calling And give the best in me To guard my every neighbor And protect his property.

And if, according to Your will, While on duty I must answer death's call; Bless with Your protecting hand My family, one and all.

