



Merrill E. Thomas

December 31, 1919 - October 10, 2014

Merrill Ernest Thomas, 94, of Tea formerly Lake Preston, died Friday, October 10, 2014, at Good Samaritan Luther Manor, Sioux Falls, SD. Merrill was born December 31, 1919, in Flandreau, SD. He attended grade school and graduated from Flandreau High School in 1937. From high school, Merrill went on to work for Ed Ehrichs at the local Gamble Store and for the City of Flandreau until he was inducted into the United States Army on July 24, 1942, at Fort Crooks, Nebraska. He served in the United States, New Guinea, and the Philippine Islands. Merrill was honorably discharged November 5, 1945. Upon his return to Flandreau, Merrill again worked for Ed Ehrichs until October 1946 and then other jobs until March 1947. He married Helen (Spilde) Waddel on June 8, 1947, and they moved to Lake Preston on April 1, 1948, where they bought the Gamble Store which later became Thomas Hardware. They closed the hardware store in November, 1981. Merrill also worked at the Lake Preston United States Post Office from November, 1969, until January 3, 1991. Merrill is survived by his four children, David Thomas of Lake Preston, Barbara (Phil) Robinson, Anchorage, Alaska, Grace (Steven) Christianson, Tea, and Renee (Randy) Lundquist, Tea, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, his parents, Frank Lincoln and Grace Thomas, 3 brothers, Elton, Robert, Ellis (Put), a sister, Naomi, and a grand daughter. Memorial services will begin at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 18 at the United Church of Christ, Lake Preston with burial to follow in the Badger Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be

from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17 at Dindot-Klusmann Funeral Home,
Lennox.

Tribute Wall

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“ Each of you has been in my thoughts and prayers. It's difficult to have to say so many goodbyes to our parents' generation but the blessings & memories they gave us will be with us forever.

Sandra Swenson Wearne - October 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ My heart goes out to our friends, the Thomas family. Our families had so many parallels, so many connections, and so many great memories. Merrill was a great guy and a great friend. Love and hugs to all--gs

Gail Swenson - October 17, 2014 at 12:00 AM