



Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.

July 1, 1930 - September 22, 2020

Merritt A. Ewalt, Jr., age 90, died at his home in Storm Lake on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 after a brief illness. at his home in Storm Lake.

There will be no services at this time. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Merritt was born on July 1, 1930 in Iowa City, IA and was the son of Merritt A. Ewalt and Trula Mae Kelley of Coralville, IA. He was the first of five children. Merritt graduated from University High School in Iowa City where he was a state champion pole vaulter, and then earned a B.A. in Education and Industrial Arts from Iowa State Teacher's College (now University of Northern Iowa) in 1952. Drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps that year, Merritt served at Camp Pendleton during the Korean conflict. Later, Merritt went on to complete his education earning an M.A. degree in Physical Education from Wayne State University.

On June 16, 1952 Merritt was united in marriage to Mareda Mae Hansen of West Branch, IA. Together they had two sons, Steven and Darrell. In 1957 Merritt and Mareda made a home in Storm Lake and Merritt began teaching and coaching at Buena Vista College (now Buena Vista University). During his time at B.V., Merritt coached football, basketball, track, wrestling, and golf, earning conference championships in basketball and golf.

Notably, Merritt lead his basketball team to two N.A.I.A. tournaments in

Kansas City. In 2005, Merritt was inducted into the Buena Vista University Hall of Fame for outstanding coaching.

The door was always open at the Ewalt household for Merritt's players and students when they wanted to talk to "Coach". Merritt followed the athletic careers of many of his former players over the years, helping create great memories for scores of his former athletes. Always with a good story to share about the ups and downs of athletic competition, Merritt could go on through the evening, recalling names and events from the past. His recall of facts, scores, games and personal life details of both players and fellow coaches was astounding.

Merritt loved hunting, fishing and golf, passing these passions on to his family. Merritt was still watching Steve's hunting dog (Dutch) work during last year's pheasant season, supplying the hunters with coffee and his homemade cookies. In fact, just two weeks prior to Merritt's passing, he had a triple batch of oatmeal raisin cookies in the oven, testing a new recipe. He was a long-time member of St. Mark Lutheran Church. Above all, Merritt cherished time with his wife and with his two sons, enjoying visits wherever their careers took them. Merritt's grandchildren were a source of pride and joy to him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his son, Steve (Wendy) Ewalt of Storm Lake; daughter-in law, Vicky Collins Ewalt of Denver, CO; sister, Margaret Crowley of West Liberty, IA; grandchildren: Kyle and Blair Ewalt of Denver, CO; step-granddaughter, Morgan Gates of Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA; and nieces and nephews.

Merritt was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of nearly 68 years, Mareda; his son, Darrell Ewalt; his sister, Marilyn Andrews; and his brothers: Ralph Ewalt and Robert Ewalt.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ Lots of fun memories of Merritt and Mareda. Prayers comfort and strength.

Dick and Avona - October 01, 2020 at 08:07 PM

RH

“ Ray And Donna Hemphill lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.



Ray and Donna Hemphill - October 01, 2020 at 10:49 AM

JU

“ Janice Utter lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.



janice Utter - October 01, 2020 at 09:05 AM

WN

“ I was a basketball ref for many years in Iowa. I worked with Jim Jagim and we worked in the Iowa conference and we worked many games at BV. He was a good coach and we liked to work there. He was a great man and will be missed by many. Sending my prayers to his family and friends. I am sure he is in Heaven with his family and friends and even some of the refs that worked some games for him at BV. I am sure he is telling them about the call they missed. I am sure when I get to Heaven he will tell me about call I missed. May God Bless his family and give them comfort in this time of their loss.

william Nielsen - September 29, 2020 at 01:29 PM

BL

“ Things I remember about Mr. Ewalt. He'd stop by our house unannounced and wake me up as a teenager! He made you more confident, "wow, what a smart kid!" (I wasn't, particularly.) And did he have stories! RIP.

Brad Lewis - September 26, 2020 at 02:03 PM

DL

“ i loved reading this obit of Merritt as it was sooooo true! If he was your friend, you could do no wrong! He would be the first to criticize BVU, but YOU better not do so!!! You had to love him and all of his stories. I agree about how he and his players remember every detail of every play of all of those basketball and football games!!! He was definitely "ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS"!!! He could also make a mean chocolate birthday cake!!!
Sending virtual hugs and prayers for his Grandsons (Kyle & Blair), Vicky, Steve, Wendy and all of his family and friends. Dee Lewis

Dee Lewis - September 26, 2020 at 02:02 PM

RN

“ Coach always had time for a chat. A Beaver through and through. Sympathies to the Ewalt family

Ron Nichols - September 25, 2020 at 03:03 PM

SA

“ Coach Ewaldt was one of the dedicated staff members of BV when I was there back in the 70s. A great man that was a players coach. I owe a lot to him and his fellow coaches for their leadership and understanding. RIP Coach!

Steve Armstrong - September 25, 2020 at 01:26 PM

MW

“ I'm deeply sorry to learn of the passing of Merritt. Jean and I were active walkers when we lived in Emerald Park and on numerous occasions Merritt and Mareda would come out and talk to us as we were heading home. Merritt was more interested in how we were doing and he always wanted to know how our son Andy was doing. He did take great pride in his work at BV and the lives he touched. He's now united with the love of life. Mike Whitlatch, Springboro, Ohio

Mike Whitlatch - September 25, 2020 at 12:59 PM

EM

“ So sorry to hear but Merritt is now reunited with Mareda, Darrell and so many others. I looked forward to seeing and talking with Merritt always knowing that he would bring a good offence and I would need to be ready with my own offence but also knowing the deep mutual respect we had for each other. We learn from those older than us and Merritt was a good teacher. May God's peace that passes ALL understanding be with you now and always.

Erik "Hondo"and Mariellen Mosbo - September 25, 2020 at 11:08 AM

BW

“ *Becky White lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.*



Becky White - September 25, 2020 at 09:06 AM

KS

“ *Always enjoyed visiting with Merritt and Mareda but especially the feistiness but kindness Merritt always had. Glad we got to know them!!!*

Ken and Janet Strouse - September 24, 2020 at 01:23 PM

SL

“ *Sue Lloyd lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.*



Sue Lloyd - September 24, 2020 at 11:09 AM

PG

“ *MERRITT WAS A GREAT MAN. OUR PRAYERS & SYMPATHY TO MERRITT'S FAMILY. WE LIT A CANDLE IN HIS MEMORY.*



LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

PATTY GUNVILLE - September 24, 2020 at 09:35 AM



“ *Steph/Sharon Mickelson lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.* ”



Steph/Sharon Mickelson - September 24, 2020 at 07:40 AM



“ *Robin Nieland lit a candle in memory of Merritt A. Ewalt Jr.* ”



Robin Nieland - September 23, 2020 at 10:07 PM