



Albert Merwin was born to Francis and Fern (Rasmussen) Merwin on September 5, 1938. After filing for Social Security benefits, he was informed that his birth date needed to be officially changed to September 4, 1938, which led to some confusion over the years, allowing him the unique opportunity to celebrate two birthdays. Albert was the eldest of eight children. He attended school in Hot Springs, South Dakota, where he graduated.

In 1957, Albert married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis (JoAnne) O'Dea. Together, they were blessed with six children. The couple maintained a small farm outside of Sturgis, where they raised a few animals.

Albert worked in farming and ranching before being hired by Homestake Mining Company, where he dedicated 27 years of service prior to his retirement. Following his retirement, he pursued hobbies such as fishing and took on various temporary jobs, assisting local ranchers and farmers. He also spent many years working on a dairy farm.

Albert is survived by his children: Ronald (Becky) Merwin, Vicky (Henry) Ulrich, Michael (Lisa) Merwin, Gaylene (Greg) Voegeli, and Stacy (Jeff) Lenards. He is also survived by 27 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren. His surviving family members include his siblings: his twin brother, Alfred Merwin; Nancy Snow; Rose Medich; Frances Ann Rolf; and Richard Merwin. Additionally, he is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis (JoAnne); his oldest daughter, Connie; granddaughter LeeAnn; great-granddaughter Breeze; parents Francis and Fern Merwin; and brothers Ray and Ralph Merwin.

In Loving Memory



God saw that he was getting tired, a cure was not to be.

So, He put His arms around him and whispered, "Come with Me."

With tearful eyes, we watched him suffer, and saw him fade away.

Although we love him dearly, we could not make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes "the best."



Albert W. Merwin

1938—2025



The Dash

I read of a man who stood to
speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the
tombstone from the beginning...
to the end.

He noted that first came the date
of birth and spoke the following
date with tears,
but he said what mattered most
of all was the dash between those
years.

For that dash represents all the
time that they spent alive on
earth.

And now only those who loved
them know what that little line is
worth.

For it matters not, how much we
own, the cars...the house...the
cash.

What matters is how we live and
love and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and
hard. Are there things you'd like
to change?

For you never know how much
time is left that can still be
rearranged.

If we could just slow down
enough to consider what's true
and real
and always try to understand the
way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and
show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with
respect and more often wear a
smile,

remembering that this special
dash might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being
read, with your life's actions to
rehash...

would you be proud of the things
they say about how you spent
YOUR dash?

-Linda Ellis

In Loving Memory Of **Albert Wayne Merwin**

Born
September 4, 1938

Passed Away
November 8, 2025

Funeral Service
Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 10:00am
Piedmont Valley Lutheran Church
Piedmont, South Dakota

Officiant
Pastor David Piper

Video
“Daddy’s Hands” - Holly Dunn
“He Walked on Water” - Randy Travis
“Grandpa” - The Judds
“Go Rest High on That Mountain” - Vince Gill

Honorary Pallbearers
All Grandchildren (27)
& Great-Grandchildren (40)

Final Resting Place
A private burial will be held at the
Bear Butte Cemetery in Sturgis, SD at a later date.

*“Goodbye is not forever, it is not the end; it simply
means I’ll miss you, until we meet again.”*