

Melvin Sidney Carlson

Melvin Carlson, a longtime resident of both Aberdeen, and Lead, SD, passed away on September 16, 2021. Melvin was a machinist by trade, a chemist by profession, and a salesman by choice.

Melvin was born near Glenburn, ND, on May 16, 1923, he was the fifth child of William Carlson and Esther Cecelia Wilson. He attended a one room school house a mile from his home for nine years, where he was advised to take up skiing as part of his physical education. However, because there were no hills nearby, he chose to go down the road behind a horse or Model T.

At the age of 18, Melvin tried to enlist in the US Air Force. At the time he only weighed 105 lbs. and was subsequently rejected, so he instead continued attending Minot, ND, Senior High School, graduating in 1942. He then enrolled at a National Youth Administration trade school in Bismarck, ND, graduated, joined the Advanced Naval Training School in Seattle, WA, and got his first job at the Naval Torpedo Plant in Poulsbo, WA. In 1943, Melvin tried to enlist again, this time in the US Submarine Corp, where he was rejected because his pulse was too high. Finally, he enlisted in the Navy, was accepted for PT duty, and was assigned to the Naval Base at Farragut, ID. Melvin was then one of two applicants out of 199 that scored high enough to join the Navy Service School in Norfolk, VA, eventually graduating at the top of his class.

Melvin was then assigned to PT Squadron 34, receiving training at Melville, RI and Miami, FL, and afterward joined a 50-ship convoy headed to England in 1944. Despite having U boats attack the convoy for two and a half days, he arrived safely in Liverpool, England on his twenty-first birthday. During WWII, PT Squadron 34 saw action at Cherbourg, France, St. Nazaire, France and the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Following D-Day, Melvin landed in Le Havre, France and was tasked with handing out tins of coffee to the locals to build goodwill.

After an honorable discharge, Melvin returned home and enrolled at Minot State Teachers College. He transferred to the University of Minnesota and graduated with distinction in 1950 with a B. S. in Agricultural Chemistry. He spent ten years working in the dairy industry before starting a fire equipment distribution business in 1960. The business expanded operations to five states before Melvin sold it in 1991 upon his retirement.

A lover of the outdoors, Melvin hunted grouse, pheasants, geese, antelope, deer, elk and moose, often with his three sons. He retired near the Deer Mountain Ski Resort and actively skied until his early eighties, smiling as his grandchildren tried to keep up with him.

Melvin is survived by Bertha, his loving wife of 69 years; two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion in Lead, SD

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

The family invites you to a time of fellowship and refreshment, in the parish hall, following the service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.



In Loving Memory Of

Melvin Sidney Carlson

May 16, 1923 ~ September 16, 2021

In Loving Memory
Melvin Sidney Carlson

Born

May 16, 1923
Glenburn, North Dakota

Died

September 16, 2021
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Service

Friday, October 1, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Lead, South Dakota

Officiating

Father Leo Hausman

Lectors

Theresa Carlson Carroll Deborah Carlson Smith

Ushers

Rebecca Carlson Drumm Angela Carlson

Pianist

Lyla Gross

Cantor

Phylis Reller

Musical Selections

"Here I Am, Lord" "Be Not Afraid"
"On Eagle's Wings" "How Great Thou Art"

Pallbearers

Mark Carlson Paul Carlson Michael Pierson
Marlin Haberstroh Donald Carlson Tim Carroll

Interment

Black Hills National Cemetery
Sturgis, South Dakota

*When I come to the end of the road,
And the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room.
Why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little, but not too long,
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared –
Miss me, but let me go.*

*For this a journey we all must take;
and each must go alone;
It's all a part of the Master's plan.
A step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart
Go to the friends we know.
And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds -
Miss me, but let me go.*

