



## Merl H. Thelen

May 30, 1950 - March 17, 2022

NORFOLK -- Memorial service for Merl H. Thelen, 71, of Norfolk will be held at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Officiating the service will be Rev. Terry Buol. Visitation will be held 2 hours prior to service time on Wednesday. Merl died on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk as a result of a vehicle accident. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Merl was born on May 30, 1950 in Osmond, Nebraska to Harold and Edna (Beckmann) Thelen. Merl attended grade school in Bloomfield, graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1968. He graduated from Tech School in Omaha to be a mechanic. After Tech school, Merl worked for himself as a mechanic in Norfolk. Merl married Linda (Juracek) in 1972 in Norfolk, NE. After they married Merl later worked for Harley Tejkl as a farm hand, before being offered a job with Vern Dall Ford as a shop foreman. Before retiring Merl was a mechanic with the Norfolk City Street Division, he hauled mail from Norfolk to Omaha, he was a computer technician and also drove truck on the side as part owner and operator of Thelen Trucking. The couple moved to Niobrara in 2011, where they owned and operated the Riverside Café. The couple then decided to move back to Norfolk in January 2015 and he kept driving truck part time until retiring in 2018. Merl enjoyed hunting, fishing, putting out set lines, pulling practical jokes, dancing, taking his grand dogs for a joy ride at night, playing cards, and being with his buddies for a couple of

beers at night. He was a member of the Eagles Club, as well as a volunteer ambulance driver for Niobrara.

Survivors include the love of his life Linda Thelen of Norfolk; children Todd Thelen (Erica Peek) of Norfolk, Tyler Thelen (Caitlin Wiley) of Norfolk, daughter by choice Missy Terry (George Wiedel) of Kearney; grandchildren Brittani Thelen (Jake Betzen) of Norfolk, Tucker Thelen of Osmond, Suttyn Thelen of Norfolk, Katarina and Caleb Miller of Osmond, Braylon and Kellen Mauler of Kearney, Greyson Wiedel of Kearney and Great-Grand children Kyleigh and Paxtyn Thelen of Norfolk. Brother Lyle Thelen of Creighton, sisters Norma (Lyle) McDonald of Plainview, Janice Kirschenman of Yankton, and RuthAnn Sullivan of Yankton. Merl was preceded in death by his Parents Harold and Edna, and father-figure Loal Gieselman. Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 23. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk  
1200 N.13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-7676  
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com  
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

## Memorial Service

MAR 23. 4:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk  
1200 N.13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-7676  
info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com  
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Merl H. Thelen*



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - March 22, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ *Merl H. Thelen*

October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM



“ *210 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - March 22, 2022 at 12:51 PM

BS

“ *Brian J. Schlote lit a candle in memory of Merl H. Thelen*



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**Brian J. Schlote** - March 21, 2022 at 11:05 PM

KA

“ *Dad Thelen you will be missed. Thank you for always being there when I needed to talk or inviting me over, you could always make anyone laugh. You always made me and my kids fill like family. Love you and until we meet again.*

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**Karen** - March 21, 2022 at 08:44 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Merl H. Thelen.*



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March 21, 2022 at 05:34 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Merl H. Thelen.*



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March 21, 2022 at 12:43 PM

IS

“ you all have my sympathy. Merl was a jokester and also made people laugh with his pranks. I will always remember the old car in the garage after playing cards and a few beers later. I got in the car, no seat but the steering wheel and was going to go joy riding. Merl just laughed and laughed at me. Cherish those memories.

Irene Stevens - March 20, 2022 at 07:27 PM

BP

“ So sorry to hear about Merl's accident & passing. Merl was a classmate thru Trinity Lutheran School & Bloomfield High School. Always considered him to be a solid guy. Good memories.

Bonnie (Lush) Pinkelman/Chuck Pinkelman - March 20, 2022 at 06:51 PM

AS

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to Thelen family. I still think of you all when I pull in the driveway at the river. Merle was one of the good ones.

Angie Salmen - March 19, 2022 at 02:56 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merl H. Thelen.



March 19, 2022 at 02:50 PM

GI

“ So sorry to hear about Merl. Known Merl since back in the days he was fixing computers - for my parents Ken and Kay Raile. He was for sure one of the good guys and will be missed! ginny

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**ginny** - March 18, 2022 at 10:30 PM

MT

Thank you Ginny ❤️

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**Missy Terry** - March 19, 2022 at 02:37 PM