



## Merlyn Zubrod

April 17, 1929 - January 14, 2021

A recording of Merlyn's funeral mass is available at this link: <https://youtu.be/wBCRRKjb1rg>

Early Thursday morning, January 14, 2021, Merlyn “Zubie” Zubrod of Templeton, passed away peacefully in his sleep at Manning Senior Living, following a courageous battle with COPD.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Templeton. The Celebrant will be Father Timothy Pick. Music will be provided by the Sacred Heart Church Organist. Lector will be Sara Schuler. Honorary Gift bearers will be Kelsey Sikkema, Grace Schuler and Mason Sikkema. Casket Bearers will be Cody Wolf, Kyler Wolf, Scott Feldmann, Larry Heithoff, Ron Langel and Joes Kemper. Honorary Casket Bearers will be Keith Kerkhoff, Kevin Boersma, Rick Gute, Dale Prebeck and Eugene Prebeck. Burial will be at the Sacred Heart Cemetery in Templeton, Iowa, with military honors conducted by the Manning V.F.W., and the Dedham American Legion.

Visitation without the family present will be held from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Those in attendance are required to wear a face mask and abide by all COVID-19 restrictions.

Those wishing to mail a memorial may direct it to the Merlyn Zubrod Family, C/O Sharp Funeral Home, 226 W. 8th St., Carroll, IA 51401  
Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Merlyn's family at [www.sharppfuneral.com](http://www.sharppfuneral.com).

He was born on April 17, 1929 to Louis & Louise (Bellinghausen) Zubrod on their family farm near Templeton. The family moved to area farms near Halbur, Manning and Templeton, where he attended and completed Grade School and helped on the family farm, along with his five siblings. His parents laid the foundation for his strong Catholic faith, which he carried throughout his lifetime. Merlyn prayed his rosary daily.

Merlyn married Marilyn Wanninger on Feb. 5, 1951 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Audubon. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in June 1951, and Army Corporal Zubrod was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska for two years during the Korean War, prior to the Statehood of Alaska. He often talked about his military buddies and driving his M7 tank. To this union, Randy, Rhonda and James were born.

After arriving back to Iowa, Merlyn worked as a finish carpenter and cabinet maker for Lawrence Ocken Construction in Templeton. He eventually turned to farming full-time and made wood-working his hobby.

Following Marilyn's death in 1964, Merlyn married Pat Murphy in Des Moines on August 26, 1969. Pat and her three children, Deb, Karla and Tom moved to the Zubrod farm south of Templeton. In December 1969, Merlyn and Pat purchased their current farm west of Templeton, and welcomed their daughter Tricia in 1970. He continued to farm and raise feeder pigs until his retirement years.

Merlyn challenged his wood-working skills by building two wooden drivable

cars, and a wooden drivable stagecoach, which he proudly displayed at car shows and parades. During his 80's, he took on the task of building his own cherry wood casket. What a God-given talent Merlyn was gifted with! He offered his skills to help with the reassembly of the Manning Hausbarn, spending hours tinkering, creating many unique contraptions and enjoyed caring for his horses, donkeys, ostriches, cats and dogs, especially his lab, Cody. With the talk of Templeton Rye being bottled in his hometown, Merlyn jumped on board as a charter employee, known as "The Boss", where he gave many a good laugh and shared several old time stories. He was an active longtime member of the Templeton Knights of Columbus and the Manning VFW Post# 3517.

Merlyn dearly loved his family and going to many of the grandchildren's activities. He was known for his story-telling, being the town Santa Claus and sharing in many a laugh with friends at the Corner Station in Templeton. No one was a stranger to Merlyn! One of the highlights towards the end of his life was getting to participate in the Brushy Creek Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his youngest daughter Tricia Zubrod.

Merlyn is survived by his wife, Pat, of 51 years, son Randy (Karen) Zubrod of Templeton and daughters Rhonda (Bud) Wolf of Omaha and Tricia Zubrod (fiancé Tim Tobin) of Des Moines, along with step-children, Deb (Steve) James, Karla (Chuck) Danner and Tom Allen (Fiancé Annette Cooper), all of Carroll. He is also survived by 10 grandchildren: Sara, Kelsey, Cody, Kyler, Jenni, Matt, Adam, Patrick, Marissa, Gregg and 17 great-grandchildren.

He's also survived by his siblings, Don Zubrod of Manning, Ken (Donna) Zubrod and Carol Mae Rupiper both of Phoenix, AZ. Siblings-in-law: Pauline (Duane) Irlmeier of Templeton, Sally (Harry) Reiman of Carroll, Billy (Lue) Wanninger of Manning, Step-Siblings-in-law: Pat (Kevin) Schultz of Carroll,

Lois (Pete) Croghan and Mark (Bonnie) Wanninger both of Manning, Nook (Tom) Wuhr of CO, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and special friend Jin Wandzel of Minnesota.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Marilyn and their infant son, James. His parents: Louis and Louise Zubrod; Parents-in-law: Bill and Theresa Wanninger, and Bill's second wife, Teresa Wanninger, and Matt and Harriet Murphy. Sisters: Thelma (Jerry) Fox and Doris (Allen) Feldmann. Sisters-in-law: Joyce Zubrod and Delores (Roy) Lidbeck, Brothers-in-law: Gene Rupiper and Jim (Marcy) Murphy. Niece: Vickie (Chuck) Hester, and step-grandson, Mike Allen.

# Tribute Wall

RZ

“ This comment from Roy Reiman, Merlyn's first cousin, was passed along to Randy & Karen Zubrod to share on Merlyn's Tribute Wall.

*"Aw, so sad to hear. Merlyn was one of my favorite and funniest cousins.*

*His sense of humor and creative displays—including giraffes sticking their heads out of his cornfield along Hwy 71—gave a lift to a lot of people's lives.*

*He likely has a whole new audience now." --Roy Reiman*

*We thank Roy for his tribute to Merlyn! 🙏 Randy & Karen Zubrod*

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**Randy & Karen Zubrod** - January 22, 2021 at 05:16 PM

EM

“ Prayers, Hugs and Sympathy to all. Merlyn was truly one of a kind. Memories of his kind Heart. Time for everyone. Laughter and love surrounded him always.

*Diane & Gene Meiners*

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**Eugene Meiners** - January 19, 2021 at 12:31 PM

LW

“ My sympathy to Pat and family Merlin was certainly a unique individual; a talented craftsman and a friend to all who knew him. A good one went to haven.

*Leon J. Wernimont D.V.M.*

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**Leon J. Wernimont** - January 18, 2021 at 08:21 PM

JR

*Merlin was a kinda guy always smiled n loved to join l the parades all around. He was certainly gifted m liked.  
Randy. Sorry to see him leave but it wasn't his time. Hugs*

jerry rupiper - February 04, 2021 at 06:59 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.*



January 18, 2021 at 07:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.*



January 18, 2021 at 06:18 PM

DS

“ *Dr. Wilson, Dr. Evans and Staff purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.*



Dr. Wilson, Dr. Evans and Staff - January 18, 2021 at 02:24 PM

MS

“ My sympathy to the family, especially Tom and Deb. He will live on in the memories you have and the stories you tell. Be at peace.

*Mary Ann Schulte*

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**Mary Ann Schulte** - January 18, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.



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January 18, 2021 at 12:06 PM

LD

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to Merlyn's family. May your happy memories comfort you during this difficult time. We will miss Merlyn's smile and the jokes he shared.



*Glenn and Lois Dentlinger*

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**LOIS DENTLINGER** - January 18, 2021 at 08:38 AM

CK

“ Carol Mae, Nick, Jeri Lynn, Angie and Kristi purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.



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**Carol Mae, Nick, Jeri Lynn, Angie and Kristi** - January 17, 2021 at 08:29 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.*



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January 17, 2021 at 06:56 PM



“ *I'm sure Merlyn and my Grandpa Kerkhoff are having a good time again!*



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**Kari Kerkhoff** - January 17, 2021 at 04:43 PM



“ *Joanie Schulte lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Zubrod*



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**Joanie Schulte** - January 17, 2021 at 11:21 AM

KW

“ Pat and Tricia,  
Our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Tricia has shared many wonderful stories about Merlyn over the years. What a wonderful man. We feel honored to have some of his special crafting in our home. The roasting forks will never touch a fire, just our hearts.



Kathy Winger - January 17, 2021 at 08:24 AM



“ Dave Woodward lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Zubrod



Dave Woodward - January 16, 2021 at 09:26 PM



Thank You Dave!

Karla Allen-Danner - January 17, 2021 at 12:33 AM

SI

“ To the Zubrod family, Our heart felt sympathy to all. I don't know if heaven is ready for him. He will have a legacy in Templeton for generations to come. Pat should you need anything please call. Rooster & Shell rlbeck

Shell Irlbeck - January 16, 2021 at 04:03 PM

KP

“Merlin was such an incredible person. He had a boundless sense of adventure and a limitless sense of accomplishment. I loved and admired his wood and metal creations!! He always had a smile and plenty of hijinks to share. No one can ever replace his spirit here on earth, but rest assured he'll be smiling down from heaven inviting us to the party.



*All our love and prayers to the family during this difficult time!*

*Lance & Kaylene*

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**Kaylene Peterman** - January 16, 2021 at 12:58 PM

RZ

*Kaylene & Lance,  
Thank you for your beautiful description of Merlyn, along with your love & prayers.  
♥Randy & Karen Zubrod♥*

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**Randy & Karen Zubrod** - January 18, 2021 at 04:45 AM

LS

“Was so fortunate to know Merlyn. His wit and humor was never ending. He touched the hearts of many and will never be forgotten. Our sympathies to Pat and the Zubrod family.

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**Laurie Stein** - January 16, 2021 at 07:29 AM

MW

“ Sending my sympathy to Merlyn’s family. It took over 91 years for God to get ready to bring Merlyn home 🍷. He knew he made a gem that would have fun where ever he went 🍷 he knew he made a gem that would take a piece of scrap and make it into a beautiful work of art 🍷 he knew that he made a gem that would have so many friends that right now are looking back and reminiscing 🍷 he also knew that he made a gem that was as ornery as they come (sometimes with a lot of help from his 🍷Gem🍷 Pat) but thank goodness we had over 91 years with that GEM🍷. Hugs to you all. R.I.P. lip man 🍷 aka Merlyn 🍷

Mickey Weitzl - January 15, 2021 at 07:37 PM

RZ

Mickey, thank you for sharing your wonderful memories of Merlyn. He truly was a GEM!

♡Randy & Karen Zubrod ♡

Randy & Karen Zubrod - January 16, 2021 at 04:49 AM

SM

“ Merlyn,

You always had a smile on your face and I am fortunate that you moved into the Manning Senior Living Family and we could walk your journey with you and your family

-----Sherry Community Director

Sherry Meyer - January 15, 2021 at 05:11 PM

RZ

Sherry,  
Thanks to you and your staff for helping to keep Merlyn safe and smiling.

♡Randy & Karen Zubrod ♡

Randy & Karen Zubrod - January 16, 2021 at 05:04 AM

Ann  
Trullinger

“ *Deepest Sympathy to Pat and family on the passing of Merlyn.  
Mark and Ann Trullinger*

*He would not want the ones he loves  
To grieve for him today.  
We must not say that he is dead  
For he is just away --  
Away upon a journey  
To a land that's bright and fair!  
And though we all miss him here  
We know he's happy there --  
And memories of him will bring  
New comfort every day  
As we recall, he is not dead  
For he is just away.*



I stripped metal body from chassis and covered the wood with lead to wood rotwood because it's easy to work with and doesn't dry out



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**Ann Trullinger** - January 14, 2021 at 08:54 PM

RZ

*Ann & Mark,  
Thank you for the kind words and poem. What a beautiful picture of  
Merlyn & Pat!  
♡Randy & Karen Zubrod ♡*

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**Randy & Karen Zubrod** - January 16, 2021 at 05:13 AM

KV

“ *Kent & Karen Vollstedt lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Zubrod*



Kent & Karen Vollstedt - January 14, 2021 at 07:41 PM

PS

“ *Pat, Trish and family... so very sorry to hear this. We always loved visiting with Merlyn! What a character he could be. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers. Big Hugs!*



Pam Sebring - January 14, 2021 at 06:46 PM

KM

“ *Kim Miller lit a candle in memory of Merlyn Zubrod*



Kim Miller - January 14, 2021 at 03:26 PM

 Jodi Bayliss

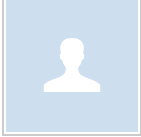
*So sorry to hear of Merlins passing. He was always so happy and quite the jokester. My sympathy to you Tricia and your whole family. You'll be in my thoughts and prayers. Jodi Wiederin Bayliss.*

Jodi Bayliss - January 14, 2021 at 05:47 PM



*Thank you so much Kim Miller*

Karla Allen-Danner - January 16, 2021 at 04:18 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Merlyn Zubrod.



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January 14, 2021 at 02:57 PM