



## Merle Edward Amundson

August 21, 1936 - November 28, 2017

GREENFIELD, IN – Heaven received another soul when Merle Edward Amundson, age 81, passed away on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at Hancock Regional Hospital from complications of a recent stroke. He was born on August 21, 1936 in Sioux Falls, S.D. to the son of E.P. and Marjorie (Lifto) Amundson. Merle graduated from Colton (S.D.) High School in 1954. He received his bachelors from South Dakota State University in 1958, married his sweetheart Avis Yvonne Schneekloth soon thereafter, then travelled east together so that he could obtain both his masters and Ph.D. (1961) from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy in Boston.

He began his career as a chemist at Eli Lilly & Co., working there his entire career with numerous publications to his name and retiring after 33 years with the company, most recently at the level of Executive Director. Merle was a very active member of his church and community. He served faithfully in many capacities at St. James Lutheran Church, where he proudly sang in the choir for many years. In addition, he was a member of the Greenfield Sertoma Club, a past-president and Sertoman of the Year honoree; Board of Directors, Boys & Girls Club of Hancock County; and a strong advocate for youth baseball in this area. In 1989, he received the honor of Distinguished Alumnus from South Dakota State University in recognition of his dedication and service to the pharmacy profession.

Merle enjoyed golfing, working in his yard and watching his grandchildren participate in their many activities. He also liked baseball, playing at both the high school and college levels while always cheering on his beloved New York Yankees. Most of all, he loved his Lord and his family.

Merle is survived by his wife of over 59 years, Avis Amundson of Greenfield; three sons, Eric (Tracie) Amundson of Greenfield, Dr. Paul (Dr. Alison Tandler) Amundson of Sioux Falls, S.D. and Peter (Polly) Amundson of Westfield, IN; brother, Dr. Loren (Mavis) Amundson of Sioux Falls, S.D.; sister, Lynn (Gordy) Boldt of Bloomington, M.N.; ten grandchildren, Mathew, Jacob, Jenna, Nicholas, Mia, Austin, Blake, Eliana, Amy and Austin; and numerous loving nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his

parents, E.P. and Marjorie Amundson; sister, Carol Dierks; and nephew, Mark Amundson.

Visitation will be held on Friday, December 8, 2017, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory, 1484 W. US Hwy. 40, Greenfield, IN 46140. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2017, at 11:00 a.m., at St. James Lutheran Church, 1741 S. State Street, Greenfield, IN 46140. Pastor Larry Gember will be officiating. Interment will occur at a later date in Colton, South Dakota.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions may be made by mail to the South Dakota State University Foundation, 815 Medary Ave., Box 525, Brookings, SD 57007 or to St. James Lutheran Church, 1741 S. State Street, Greenfield, IN 46140. Envelopes will be available at the mortuary and church. Friends may share a memory or a condolence at [www.erleweinmortuary.com](http://www.erleweinmortuary.com).

# Events

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**DEC**   **Visitation**                      03:00PM - 07:00PM

**8**  
Erlewein Mortuary & Crematory - Greenfield  
1484 West US Highway 40, Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

**DEC**   **Funeral Service**                      11:00AM

**9**  
St. James Lutheran Church  
1741 S. State St., Greenfield, IN, US, 46140

# Comments

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“ Merle and I worked on a project together at Lilly in 1977 that led to a joint publication and a trip to Germany with Merle and Avis. Our paths rarely crossed after that, but I hold fond memories of working with a man of integrity and compassion. I will always be grateful for his mentorship. I owe him a large debt of gratitude for taking me under his wing. I am a better person and the world is a better place because of Merle.

**John Murphy** - December 07, 2017 at 08:43 AM

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“ Merle and I married sisters and we spent many fond memories together. Enjoyed golfing with him and his boys. We talked about Jesus a lot so I know where he is now and I know I'll see him at a later date. Milt Eitreim, Bella Vista, Arkansas

**milton eitreim** - December 03, 2017 at 06:26 PM

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“ It is Sunday morning and am sure Merle is singing in the Lord's choir with son Mark as they were both choir members and loved to sing and you can be sure Mark has had his Uncle Merle on the links as golf was something they both loved. Love to all the family, Brother Loren and Mavis

**Danny Amundson** - December 03, 2017 at 02:16 PM

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“ I am very sorry about Merle's passing. Merle was a very kind and true full man. I worked under Merle for several years at Lilly. If you deserved something Merle would go after it for you ! He will be deeply missed by the community. Tom Macy

**Tom Macy** - December 02, 2017 at 09:38 PM

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“ I am deeply saddened by the news of Merle's passing. A lot of my Lilly career was guided by him. I was his golfing partner on the Lilly League for several years. I especially enjoyed the Christmas parties he and Avis hosted at their house. The community will miss him dearly. Rest in peace, Merle. Harlan Wooten, Ft. Myers FL.

**Harlan Wooten** - December 01, 2017 at 09:27 AM

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“ I'm so sorry to hear about Merle. He was the nicest man and he & Avis always made Bill & I feel like family the whole time we lived in Greenfield. He was a good friend to many and I know the community will miss his participation & kindness. My family sends their love and condolences to the family and will keep you in our prayers. Love to you all  
Marsha Becker & Family

**Marsha Becker** - November 30, 2017 at 09:21 PM

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“ Diana Clementsscott lit a candle in memory of Merle Edward Amundson



**Diana Clementsscott** - November 30, 2017 at 09:09 PM