



Merlin "Merl" Nadler

January 12, 1932 - September 27, 2024

Dodgeville – Merlin “Merl” Nadler, age 92, of Dodgeville, passed away on Friday, September 27, 2024 at his home surrounded by his loving family.

Merl was born on January 12, 1932, a son of Walter and Clara (Stelse) Nadler of Lake Mills, WI. He attended Lake Mills High School. Merl was active in football and basketball. He lived in Lake Mills in the family home and worked at various jobs in the area and also for awhile in Chicago on the construction of downtown buildings.

In 1963, he came to Dodgeville, WI and purchased the A & W Root Beer stand. He operated the drive in for 10 years and then met and married his wife Vicky Meuer in 1974. Together they ran the A & W, hiring numerous Dodgeville area teens giving them their first job. Many of those stayed with the business for several years even after graduating college. Merl was an avid supporter of Dodgeville sports teams also.

In 1982, Merl and Vicky added an even more permanent member of the A & W family, their daughter, Christy Ann Nadler was born. She grew up in the restaurant and it was always home to her with a large group of “big sisters and brothers” to grow with and learn from.

Merl enjoyed hunting, fishing, and going to Badger sports games. He and his

family attended all home and some away football games, even one Rose Bowl. They went to Badger Men' and Women's basketball also. Along with the traveling for sports Merl and Vicky liked to travel to all parts of the United States during the winter months when A & W was closed.

Merl is survived by his wife, Vicky (Meuer); his daughter Christy (Mike) Schwartz; his grandchildren, Emily and Colton Schwartz, all of Oregon, WI; nieces, nephews other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Clara Nadler, his siblings, William Nadler and Leila Washko.

A Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at the GORGEN-McGINLEY & AYERS FUNERAL HOME in Dodgeville.

Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 3, 2024 at Rock Lake Cemetery in Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials be made to the Wisconsin Badger Band - Michael Leckrone Director of Marching Bands Fund or the Dodgeville Area Scholarship Foundation Inc.

Cemetery Details

Rock Lake Cemetery

359 West Pine Street
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Gorgen-McGinley & Ayers Funeral Home
400 East Grace Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
(608) 935-5222
gorgenfh@mhtc.net

Graveside Service

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Rock Lake Cemetery
359 West Pine Street
Lake Mills, WI 53551

Tribute Wall



“ *Vicky and family.*

I am so sorry for you losing Merle. I am so glad that I got to see him at our 60th reunion. So many good memories. I would stop to see him after I closed Ladd's Color Spot at night. After closing, we would sit outside at a table and just talked (when open, he even let me go in the kitchen, which would have been a no no today). I'm so sorry I missed the visitation last night. I didn't find out until I read the Chronicle today. He was one of my favorite people. He will be missed by the Dodgeville community.

Jon Jacka - October 03, 2024 at 03:44 PM



“ *From your friends at GreenGate Fresh purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Merlin "Merl" Nadler.*



From your friends at GreenGate Fresh - October 03, 2024 at 11:21 AM

JB

“ Merl & Vicky were always so welcoming to the whole Ring Game group when we would come crowding into the A&W after our silly game. On one occasion, Merl even prepared a special “Gollum Burger” for us, but I’m not sure anyone took him up on it. We miss you and will remember you!

—Jack Barker



Jack Barker - October 02, 2024 at 01:23 PM

RM

“ My sympathy, Vicki to you and your family in your loss of Merl. I enjoyed many good meals, times at the A & W when I worked at the Courthouse for years plus when my granddaughter worked there as well. You were a great couple and done a great service to the community. Keep your precious memories to heal. Rosalie May

Rosalie May - October 01, 2024 at 04:48 PM

PM

Rest in peace my friend. Still remember my first badger football game with you. Probably 50 years ago. Thought it was so cool to eat A&W while tailgating.

Paul Meyer - October 03, 2024 at 03:25 PM



“ Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merlin “Merl” Nadler.



September 30, 2024 at 03:16 PM

RJ

“ Ron, Brenda & Ty & Ernst & Judy purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Merlin "Merl" Nadler.



Ron, Brenda & Ty & Ernst & Judy - September 29, 2024 at 08:34 PM

ES

“ Vicky, Earl and I are so sorry to hear that Merly has passed away. We enjoyed so many great times attending Badger football with the two of you. Cooking breakfast before games and attending the Rose Bowl and Michigan game too. So many great times. Rest in peace our dear friend. Love to you and your family.

Earl and Becky Schroeder - September 29, 2024 at 04:54 PM

CH

“ My Dad, Vernon Tews , was Merlin's cousin. We took road trips when we were young from Watertown to Dodgeville to visit cousin , Merl! And what an asset he and his wife and daughter were to Dodgeville! May he rest in peace and his memory live on. Sincerely, Cheryl Tews Havlik

Cheryl Havlik - September 29, 2024 at 03:38 PM

DT

“ My sympathy to Vicky and family. My daughter, Wendy, worked for you for several years and enjoyed her job there. May he rest in peace.



Donna Toay - September 29, 2024 at 09:33 AM

JB

“ Joann B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merlin "Merl" Nadler.

Joann B. - September 28, 2024 at 01:13 PM

CS

“ I worked at the A&W in high school. It was a great first job to have. Merl was a tough nonsense boss but he was also incredibly kind with a big heart. Rest in Peace Merl. Remember if you have time to lean, you have time to clean!

Cindy Semski - September 28, 2024 at 12:42 PM

CD

I worked at A&W in high school as my first ever real job. Merl ran a tight ship, and we learned a lot from him, but he also had a big heart. I was grateful for that first job, and learned some valuable life skills as well as customer service. Merl was a great man. Wishing comfort and peace to Vicky and family, as well as those also fortunate enough to know Merl.

Cindy (Kraus) Downs

Cindy Downs - September 28, 2024 at 04:16 PM

AM

Vicky and Christy, So sorry for your loss. So many wonderful memories of working for you at A&W. He was a great man he taught us to be responsible hard working people. We need more bosses like him. If you got time to lean you got time to clean. Merl You will be missed. Hopefully he can see the Badger games from heaven! Ann Miess

Ann Miess - October 02, 2024 at 05:05 PM

MP

Summer of 69 I got my first off the farm job at the A&W. Merl was a great first boss for me and many before and after me. May he rest in peace

Marcia Peterson - October 02, 2024 at 11:51 PM