



Merle E. Rutt

December 23, 1949 - January 2, 2020

Merle E. Rutt, 70, of Mount Joy, went to be with Jesus on Thursday, January 2, 2020. Born in Lancaster on December 23, 1949, he was the son of the late Warren and Esther (Sauder) Rutt. Merle was the loving husband of Christel (Grill) Rutt with whom he celebrated 42 years of marriage in November.

Merle graduated from Donegal High School in 1968. He was a respiratory therapist at Pleasant Acres (York) before retiring in 2018 due to his health. Over the years he quietly led numerous patients to Jesus, praying with them in their final moments. His favorite memories were of boating and fishing with his son and weekends spent at the shore in Delaware with his wife and children. He was the steadfast anchor of his family and always put their needs before his own. More recently, nothing brought him more immense joy than his three-year-old granddaughter Alyssa, and he loved every laugh, every hug, and every moment spent with her.

In addition to his wife Christel, Merle will be deeply missed by his daughter, Ashley Garrison, wife of Wesley (Manheim); son, Brandon Rutt (Mount Joy); granddaughter, Alyssa Garrison; brother, Galen Rutt, husband of Joan (Landisville); and sister, Marlene Martin, wife of Marlin (Lebanon).

A funeral service honoring Merle's life will be held at Calvary Bible Church, 629 Union School Road, Mount Joy on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at 11

AM. Family and friends will be received at the church before the service from 10 AM to 11 AM, including viewing. Private interment will follow at Kraybill Mennonite Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

VM

“ I worked with Merle when he was a respiratory therapist at St. Agnes hospital in Baltimore in the early 70's. He was a wonderful person and a good sounding board for this nursing student (at the time). I pray that family memories will bring blessings. (I was in Lancaster for a quilt show and thought of Merle).

Vicki Mowers - March 30, 2023 at 05:29 PM

AG

Thank you Vicki, I appreciate you sharing this very much. I still miss him every day and think of how much he'd absolutely love his grandchildren if he were here with us. - Ashley (his daughter)

Ashley Garrison - November 11, 2025 at 09:38 AM

MC

“ I worked with Merle the whole time he was at St. Josephs Hospital. I enjoyed working with him . He will be missed. My prayers are with all his loved at this time.

mallory cook - January 07, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AG

Thank you Mallory, I appreciate your sentiment. I still miss him every single day and wish he were here. - Ashley (his daughter)

Ashley Garrison - November 11, 2025 at 09:43 AM

EK

“ ED KOERBER AT ST JOEI worked with Merle at the hospital years ago when I began my career, great guy to work with always ready to help anyone who needed it was great with patients well liked by all. Merle introduced me to boating and fishing and we spent lot of fun times on the bay he showed me all his knowledge when I was a novice and bought my own boat. My condolences to his family for his loss, for me many fond memories of a true gentleman.

Ed Koerber - January 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AG

Thank you Ed, I appreciate you sharing these memories and kind words about my dad. He really was so easy going, always willing to help, and got along with everyone he worked with and especially his patients. I still miss him every day and wish he were here with us. - Ashley (his daughter)

Ashley Garrison - November 11, 2025 at 09:44 AM

GJ

“ I worked with merle in our early years of respiratory therapist days at st joe Hospital then. late 70.s and 80.s He was always a team player and great friend . GOD BLESS THE FAMILY DOING THIS TIME AND AFTER.

GREG GOODE ST JOE - January 06, 2020 at 12:00 AM

AG

Thank you Greg, I appreciate you sharing this. He was pretty great and I miss him every single day, still. -Ashley (his daughter)

Ashley Garrison - November 11, 2025 at 09:45 AM