



Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin

November 20, 1923 - May 18, 2023

Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin, 99, of Iowa Falls, passed away Thursday, May 18, 2023 at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center. Funeral services will be 10:30 AM Thursday, May 25, 2023 at the First United Methodist Church in Iowa Falls. He will be laid to rest with military honors at the Union Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 PM on Wednesday, May 24 at the church with an Elks memorial service following visitation. Woodley Funeral Home of Iowa Falls is caring for Chappie and his family. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Iowa Falls Elks Lodge #1674.

Merle Wayne Chaplin was born on November 20, 1923 in Iowa Falls, Iowa, the son of Emery and Elsie (Brightwell) Chaplin. He attended Iowa Falls Schools and Ellsworth Community College.

Merle enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 14, 1942 through May 2, 1946. He served on the staff of Admiral J.S. McCain, SR, Commander 2nd Carrier Task Force Pacific. Ships included the USS Wasp, USS Hancock, and the USS Shangri-La. He was awarded the Asiatic Pacific Award (American Area) with 6 stars, the Philippine Liberation with 2 stars, WW II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. During WW II he served in the Palau, Morotai, Late Samar, Mindor, Luzan, Formas, Okinawa Jima battles. Merle was extremely modest in talking about his service.

On June 15, 1947 Merle married Theola Anderson making their home in rural Iowa Falls. Merle spent many years with a career with the U.S. Postal Service. He also farmed his family farm. Chappie loved to have a good time. He was very active in the Iowa Falls Elks Lodge #1674, a 78-year member. Merle was also active in the community, involved in the following for 50+ years: Hardin County Veterans Affairs, American Legion, VFW, U.S. Postal Workers Union, Iowa Falls Housing Board and Meadow Hills Golf member. Merle and Theola enjoyed their retirement! They wintered in Yuma, AZ for many years. Chappie's hobbies included fixing things on the farm, golfing, an occasional card or craps game, playing pool and spending time with family.

Merle Chaplin is survived by his children; Karla (Bob) Rankin, Tom (Robbi) Chaplin, Randy Chaplin and Kristi Chaplin (Bill Greene); four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Theola; parents and one sister.

Cemetery Details

Union Cemetery

Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
619 Main Street
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Service

MAY **25**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
619 Main Street
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.

May 24, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.



May 24, 2023 at 09:10 AM



“ We can never forget or stop thanking those of the "Greatest Generation" who served their country.



William L. Greene - May 23, 2023 at 03:25 PM



“ We have so many happy memories of working and partying with Chappie at the Elks. We celebrated his milestone 70 year membership at the State Elks convention in 2015. He was the most dedicated member. He will be missed...our condolences to the family. Jim and Judy Barhite

Judy and Jim Barhite - May 23, 2023 at 10:37 AM

DW

“ My condolences to the Chaplin family on the passing of Chappie. He was a great influence for both me and my father in the Iowa Falls Elks as both officers and members of the lodge. He will be greatly missed.

Dave Wilkie - May 23, 2023 at 10:27 AM

SR

“ Suzanne R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.

Suzanne R. - May 23, 2023 at 10:01 AM

SR

“ Suzanne R. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.



Suzanne R. - May 23, 2023 at 10:01 AM

JR

“ Chappie was such a kind, sweet, man and a great friend to my Dad Verlynn. Our sympathies to his family at this difficult time. George and Jerri Ranson

Jerri Ranson - May 23, 2023 at 07:11 AM

KJ

“ A wonderful man! My condolences to the family, a huge loss to many.

Kelly Johnson - May 22, 2023 at 10:38 PM

LG

“ *Karla so sorry for your loss. A nice man. I remember riding his go kart out at the farm.*

Larry Goodknight - May 22, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.*



May 22, 2023 at 11:40 AM

BR

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Brent - May 22, 2023 at 08:01 AM

JG

“ *Judy Greene, Bob & Becky Greene purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.*



Judy Greene, Bob & Becky Greene - May 21, 2023 at 04:21 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.*



May 21, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Merle "Chappie" W. Chaplin.*



May 20, 2023 at 06:19 PM