



Marjorie Charlene Merrill

JUN 27, 1935 - FEB 8, 2026



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Marjorie Charlene Merrill

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Colonel Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill June 27, 1935 - February 8, 2026 Col. Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill, a devoted nurse, proud veteran, and faithful servant of God, passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2026, in San Bernardino, California, surrounded by her loving family.

She was a longtime resident of San Bernardino and was originally from Sheridan, Indiana. Charlene was born to Charles and Louise (Kremmer) Merrill, who preceded her in death. She was a 1953 graduate of Sheridan High School. She continued her education at Ball State University and Anderson University, where she earned her degree in nursing-beginning a lifelong calling to care for others.

Col. Merrill proudly served her country for 30 years in the United States Air Force. Stationed at Norton Air Force Base, she was one of the few women serving on base at that time, paving the way for those who would follow. During the Vietnam War, she served on reserve duty along the East Coast, compassionately caring for sick and injured soldiers returning home.

Toward the end of her distinguished career, she served as a nurse on air evacuation flights, providing critical care to wounded service members in transit. During the Gulf War, Col. Merrill achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first female full-bird colonel in the reserves, commanding a squadron of 300. Her leadership, dedication, and strength left a lasting impact on all who served alongside her.

Beyond her military service, Charlene was deeply devoted to her church and steadfast in her faith. She lived her beliefs daily through service, kindness, and unwavering love for her family and community. She is survived by her nephews: Mike Merrill of Cole Camp, Missouri; David Merrill of Warsaw, Missouri; Scott (Teresa) Merrill of Westfield, Indiana; and niece-in-law Cheryl Merrill of Sheridan, Indiana.



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She is also survived by her great-nephews Joshua (Brittany) Merrill and Brock Merrill; and great-nieces Erin (Travis) Macy, Lindsey (Ryan) Martin, Ashley (Arley) Myers, Tia (David) Guzman, and Makayla Merrill. Charlene is lovingly remembered by her California family: Julie & Dale Dunlap, Kevin & Christina Warren, Evangeline (Scott) Iler, Charles (Annette) Pagaduan, Elizabeth (Dragan) Milanovich, Nelson "Jack" (Kathleen) Pagaduan, & Florence Pagaduan (Brandon Wood)

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Louise Merrill; her brother, Montie Merrill; her sister-in-law, Dorothy Merrill; and her nephew, Gary Merrill. Visitation will be held at Bobbitt Memorial Chapel, 1299 E. Highland Avenue, San Bernardino, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026.

A funeral service Colonel Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill June 27, 1935 - February 8, 2026 will be held at Highland First Church of God on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Graveside services with military honors will follow at Riverside National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Norton Air Force Base Museum, honoring Charlene's deep connection to the base where she faithfully served. Col. Marjorie "Charlene" Merrill's legacy of courage, compassion, and faith will live on in the countless lives she touched.



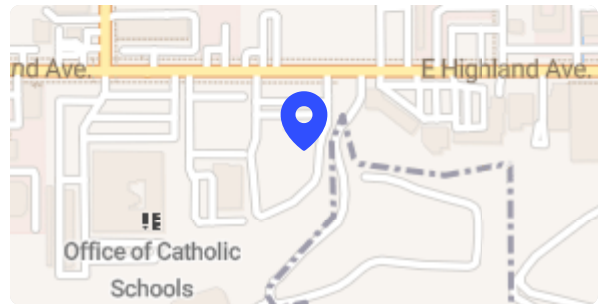
Events

Marjorie Charlene Merrill

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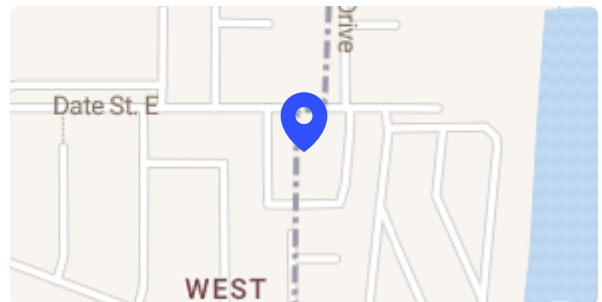
Visitation

- Wednesday**, February 25, 2026
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM PT
- Bobbitt Memorial Chapel**
1299 E Highland Avenue, San Bernardino CA 92404



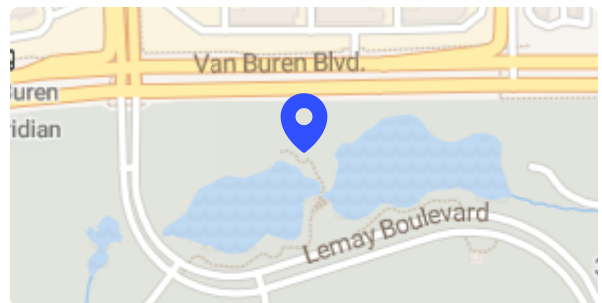
Funeral Service

- Thursday**, February 26, 2026
- 10:00 AM PT
- Highland First Church of God**
2595 Date St., Highland CA 92346



Committal Service

- Thursday**, February 26, 2026
- 12:45 PM PT
- Riverside National Cemetery**
22495 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside CA 92518





Tribute Wall

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January Grizzell posted:

I'll try this again. It didn't post it before. I knew Charlene in San Bernardino from 1965, when I took a class for Nurses Aide 1 & 2. She was my mentor, and became a beloved part of our family through the years. I moved to Anchorage, Alaska in Dec of 69 and she would fly into Elmendorf AFB where I would pick her up and we'd have fun catching up. I was a single parent then, and she always brought clothes, bread and cookies, and fresh fruit off of the trees in her back yard for my two children. One occasion when I drove to the Billiting Office to pick her up, I was parked outside and she had just started walking out to get in my car. Another car pulled up, parked and a man got out of the drivers side started walking up the sidewalk directly to her, outstretched his hand to hand her his keys to park his car. She very politely stuck her hand out, and with a friendly smile and her southern accent said... " Let me introduce myself, I'm Col. Marjorie Merrill can I get you some help? "He was so embarrassed and he said no thank you, and went on towards the Billiting Office. We laughed and laughed then headed over to the BX where she told me to park at the sign for Officers. I pulled my red Camero into the spot, and as I went to get out I noticed several people parked close by us that were giving us nasty looks. I mentioned it to Charlene. And asked her if I parked properly and why. She said, oh I get that all the time. Because they think we're somebodies girlfriend or wives. I miss her dearly. The memories stay close in my heart. Both of my children thought of her as " Auntie Charlene." I am happy knowing I will see her again in Heaven. And then never have to say goodbye.

March 20 at 7:51 PM



Frank Correa posted:

I served in the Air Force with Charlene at Norton AFB. She was our squadron commander in the 1980's. She called us her kids and she was loved as our beloved "grandma". She loved all of us and treated us with kindness.

February 18 at 9:59 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Marjorie by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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