

Darold Bihrlle – BS 1960 Pharmacy

Darold Allan Bihrlle, 87, a longtime resident of Wheaton, MN, passed away March 13, 2024, at Sanford Medical Center in Wheaton.

Darold was born July 9, 1936, in Sisseton, SD, to Harry and Amanda Bihrlle, who moved to Wheaton shortly thereafter. He was baptized, and later confirmed in the Christian faith at Hope Lutheran Church in Wheaton.

Darold graduated from Wheaton High School in 1954, participating in football, basketball and his favorite sport, baseball. A couple of years later he met his life-long partner, Connie Jacobson (WHS class of 1957), and they were married on Aug. 23, 1958.

Darold received his pharmacy degree from the North Dakota College of Agriculture (now NDSU) in 1959 and started working full time for Larry Hokanson at Corner Drug in Wheaton. In 1969 he purchased the store on Wheaton's Main Street and was sole proprietor until he retired in 1993. He continued to take on pharmacy relief work in surrounding communities for many years.

In addition to his work life, Darold was an avid hunter and angler, guitar picker, singer, golfer and sports fan. He also served as a volunteer fireman, was on the Wheaton Country Club board when the golf course converted from sand to grass greens, and attended and worshipped at Bethlehem Covenant Church, where for many years he organized a popular annual wild game feed.

Darold is survived by his loving wife of sixty-five years, Connie Bihrlle of Wheaton; and six children: Craig (Liz) Bihrlle of Park Rapids, MN; David (Michele) Bihrlle of Rice Lake, WI; Becky Bihrlle Keller of Minneapolis, MN; Carrie Bihrlle of Flagler Beach, FL; Stefanie (Matt) Anders of Boise, ID; and Sara (Jeff) Ahrens of Madelia, MN. He was also an enthusiastic, proud and loving "Papa" to thirteen grandchildren: Laura (Orrock) and Danny Bihrlle; Matt and Michael Bihrlle; Clay, Britt and Hanson Keller; Lily and Henry Murphy; Sage and Evan Anders; and Eli and Ella Ahrens; and one great-granddaughter, Farris Bihrlle.

He is survived by brothers- and sisters in-law: Joey (Jacobson) and Tony Walthall of Baxter, MN.; Kerwin (Jacobson) Donat of Alexandria, MN; and Jill (Jacobson) and Ron McCullar of Wheaton; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Amanda Bihrlle; father- and mother-in-law Lawrence and Dora (Bucky) Jacobson; sister Doris Moede, brother Don Bihrlle, an infant sister, and brothers-in-law Neal Moede and Dick Donat.

A funeral service for Darold is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Bethlehem Covenant Church in Wheaton, with visitation at the church starting at 10 a.m.