

Merrit died of a stroke. In 1968 he joined the United States Army and was deployed to Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Merrit and Nancy were married in 1973. They had two children, Michelle and James. He retired from the United States Post Service in 2004. In August 2007, he welcomed his "Little Angel," granddaughter Keira, into the world. Merrit loved to play softball, listen to country music, the Dallas Cowboys, and to watch the Angels beat the New York Yankees. Merrit is survived by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Michelle Stamp (Terry); son, James; granddaughter, Keira Stamp; mother, Peggy and stepfather, Robert Brattensborg of Fargo, ND; father-in-law, William Patterson. He was predeceased by his father, James Burgess and sister, Jean Burgess. He will be missed by many friends and relatives in North Dakota, Alabama, Massachusetts, Virginia and California. (From an obituary in the Los Angeles Daily News, 3-11-2008). [Also posted to Linda Mustion's blog.](#)