



Rodney Henry Kilsdonk

June 21, 1942 - May 2, 2020

Rodney Henry Kilsdonk, 77, of rural Sidney, Montana, died in his sleep at home on May 2, 2020 after a short battle with lung cancer. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive, Montana has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Rodney, born June 21, 1942 in Jamestown, North Dakota and raised in Culbertson, Montana, was the second of ten children born to Henry (Hank) Kilsdonk and Mildred (Millie) Rasmussen Kilsdonk.

Rodney begrudgingly completed 8th grade before launching into a series of jobs including: shepherding, custom combining, seismographing, and working at the Peavey Elevator in Wolf Point.

Rodney spent a short time in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1961.

In 1962, Rod married Norma (Merrill) and together they had three children: Laurie, Rodney, Jr., and Duane. They divorced in 1970 and Rodney raised his children as a single father.

On October 14, 1978, Rod married the love of his life, Diane (Oberlander Morast). The family now included Rodney's three children and Diane's two children, Darrin and Dannel. Rod and Diane enjoyed 35 years together before Diane passed on September 22 of 2013. They spent a short time together in Savage, Montana before buying a house and 40 acres a few miles west of Sidney, Montana.

In Sidney, Rodney worked at Holly Sugar, then on drilling rigs and ultimately landed a position with the Richland County Road Department, where he worked for 30 years as a supervisor and a crane operator. He was proud that he ran the same crane for 25 years and that crane retired along with him. During his time with the county he built several bridges which are still used today.

In 2007 Rodney retired from the county and spent his days in retirement building his collection of tractors. He especially liked to buy them "stuck" and then tinker with them until they ran again. He liked to collect convertible cars, especially Pontiac Firebirds and Chevy Corvettes and drove them with the top down and his Shih Tzu, Maisy, riding alongside him. Rodney loved to spend summer days fishing with friends and sharing stories. He enjoyed many adventures traveling, sightseeing and eating out with his special

friend, Mary Vaira, during his final years. They especially enjoyed seeing shows in Medora and riding around in his convertibles.

Rodney is survived by sons, Rodney (Lisa) Kilsdonk, Duane (Darcee) Kilsdonk and Darrin (Raquel) Morast; daughters, Laurie (Wayne) Owens and Dannell Morast; grandchildren Tony (Linsey) Owens, Colton Owens, Brandi Owens, Kassidee Rose, Scott (Michelle) Kilsdonk, Elisabeth (Joe) Epley, Tessa (Taylor) Howell, Matreena (Travis) Revoir, Matthew Kilsdonk, Makaela Kilsdonk, Jade Morast, Zoey Morast, and Riley Simard; 26 great-grandchildren; brothers, Ralph (Ruth), Tim (Mary) Stan (Kathy) and Odean (Chris); sisters, Kathy, Mildred Rae (Steve) Owings.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hank and Millie Kilsdonk; brothers, Eldon and Martin (Mary) Kilsdonk and sister, Veralyn (Jim) Smith.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Comments



“ My deepest condolences to Rodney's family, to Mary and to all of his great neighbors. Rodney was a good man and a great friend who seemed to always have a smile on his face and a willingness to help out wherever he was needed. I only lived up the road for one short year but I felt as if I had known him forever. Rabbit hunting just won't be the same without you. Rest in peace my friend.

“Gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.”



Betty Pohl Barnes - May 10, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ Scott Lessman sent a virtual gift in memory of Rodney Henry Kilsdonk



Scott Lessman - May 09, 2020 at 05:47 PM



“ I am deeply sorry for Rodney's passing--My prayers go out to you. I have many memories of Rod, I worked with him on the Bridge crew. He taught me many things about the job, How to run that old crane was one of them! Rod always treated us with respect and fairness. If you were having a tough time he would bend over backwards to help. I remember many stories of his many collections, and how Diane would try to get him to "cut back"!! He was a dear friend and I will truly miss him. He is at peace now holding Diane's hand and looking over you his family. He always had a good story to tell and a Warm smile. Rest in Peace my friend, will see you again. Scott Lessman

Scott Lessman - May 09, 2020 at 05:46 PM



“ To all my Montana Kilsdonk cousins,

I was so sorry to hear of Rodney's passing. He won't be alone; he now joins Eldon, Marty, Veralyn, Diane, and his folks (my Aunt Millie and Uncle Hank). The first time I visited my Montana cousins I was three years old and the last time was for Veralyn's funeral.

I just wanted you all to know that I'm keeping the entire family in my thoughts and prayers while you go through this difficult time. I will also treasure all my memories of the Montana Kilsdonk's and the times we spent together. Love to all!

Ellen Musgrave Berg

Ellen Musgrave Berg - May 09, 2020 at 04:41 PM



“ Tim & siblings: Sorry to hear about Rod's passing. I can only picture Rod with his big grin. I especially remember him & the car he thought Tim needed because it was the same year as you were born. What a laugh we had that day!

It was a joy to read how well his life turned out. Sounds like he had lots more to smile & laugh about.

I'm sure you will miss him. I'll pray your memories help you through the grief.

Denny Park - May 09, 2020 at 09:22 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Rod's passing! Holding you all up in prayer!

Gina & Fred McIntyre - May 09, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ Odean, Chris and families: I am very sorry for your loss. It is hard to lose those we love. May our Lord continue to give you comfort and strength. Chole Crosby Butler, Sidney, MT

Chole Crosby Butler - May 08, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ We remember visiting with Rod and how fun he was to be around. He was kind and thoughtful man and loved his boys. He will be missed by all of us.

Ray - May 06, 2020 at 03:39 PM