David L. Bertelsen

August 15, 1945 - November 19, 2022

David L. Bertelsen, age 77, of Wibaux, Montana, passed away on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the Sidney Health Center in Sidney, Montana. A Celebration of Life will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Saturday, May 6, 2023, at the Wibaux County Fairgrounds with Pastor Richard Evans officiating. Silha Funeral Home of Wibaux has been entrusted with the arrangements.
Dave was born on August 15, 1945 to Verner and Marjorie (Wendt) Bertelsen at the hospital in Missoula, Montana. His early years were spent on his family's ranch in Ovando, Montana. He attended grade school in Ovando and high school in Deer Lodge, where he graduated in 1963. Following high school, Dave attended Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Production in 1969. While at MSU he met his wife, Karen Cranston. Dave and Karen were married in June of 1970. They moved to Missoula, MT in 1971 where he worked as a County Extension Agent, and Karen finished her degree. After Karen graduated in 1972, they moved to Ovando to take over his Uncle Ned's ranch. They remained on the ranch for ten years, where they welcomed their two sons Jeff and Gregg. The family moved to Sidney in 1982 where Dave worked at the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service for two years. They moved to Belgrade, MT in 1985 for Dave to pursue his Master's Degree. He graduated in 1987 with a Masters in Agricultural Education from Montana State University. From there, Dave accepted a position as a County Extension agent in Wibaux, MT which he held for twenty-eight years.

Dave was always active in the community serving as Secretary of the Wibaux County Fair Board and Manager of the Wibaux County Fair. He was a member of the Wibaux Chamber of Commerce, Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs, and the Wibaux Volunteer Fire Department. He served on City Council for twenty-eight years and as Mayor for eight of those years. He was instrumental in getting a visitor center/rest area built in Wibaux and in upgrading and expanding the Wibaux County Fairgrounds. He helped start the Wibaux Health Fair and aided in the creation of the Wibaux Endowment Fund. He also served as Chairman of the Board for the Wibaux United Methodist Church.

Dave was known for his positivity. Whether whistling cheerfully in the mornings as he got ready for his day or frequently telling others, “You do good work," he enjoyed life. He also had a love of ice cream. He would search out places, when he traveled, to find a good milkshake. He shared his love for ice cream with his family, by making milkshakes with his grandkids when they would come to visit.

Dave enjoyed working in his yard, jogging, and lifting weights with his son, Jeff. Dave was also a HUGE sports fan and rarely missed attending any of his children's or grandchildren’s activities. He traveled many miles with his wife, sons, or daughters-in-law following his grandkids to their activities. His favorite pass time was Wibaux Longhorn football where his signature "Woo Hoo!!" will be greatly missed. Dave passed peacefully while listening to his alma mater the Bobcats play the Grizzlies in the 121st “Brawl of the Wild”. We are certain it put him at ease to know that the Cats were leading the Griz 28-7 at the beginning of the second quarter.

Dave was preceded in death by his parents, Verner and Marjorie, and his brother, Allen Bertelsen.

Dave is survived by his wife of fifty-two years, Karen of Beach, ND; his sons, Jeff (Tina) Bertelsen of Wibaux and Gregg (Jessica) Bertelsen of Dickinson, ND; his grandchildren, Travis (Jonna) of Beach, Chase of Billings, MT, Shantel of Dickinson and Trenten of Moorhead, MN; and his great-grandchildren

Rhett, Ryker, and Renleigh, and his sister, Annette Bertelsen of Montpelier, VT;

We would like to thank Dr. Pedersen, the nurses, and the staff at the Sidney Health Center and Cancer Unit. We would especially like to thank those who so lovingly cared for Dave during his final days.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to the Wibaux Endowment Fund. Donations may be mailed to The Wibaux Endowment Foundation, PO Box 248, Wibaux, MT 59353 or made online https://www.mtcf.org/Giving/Give-Now choose The Wibaux Endowment Foundation in the Select Fund or Cause drop-down box.

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

Cemetery Details

Wibaux Cemetery

Wibaux, MT 59353

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **6**. 10:30 AM (MT)

Wibaux County Fairgrounds
Wibaux, MT

Tribute Wall

MB

Dear "Unc"
The sparkle of your eyes, the brightness of your smile, and the goodness of your soul will always stay in our hearts because you were one gem of a person we had. Losing you is no doubt a significant loss to all of us. You will always be missed. -Mark Bertelsen

Mark Bertelsen - May 05, 2023 at 04:15 PM

David L. Bertelsen

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM

CF

Dave hosted a whole bus full of MSU folks a few summers back - it was so memorable, because Dave's work was so impactful. He made a difference. Sending peace and condolences to his family and all his Wibaux County friends, which I think must be everyone in Wibaux County.

Chris Fastnow - November 30, 2022 at 03:32 PM

PK

Dave was truly a gentleman. During the time I worked for some of the specialists in Animal and Range, he always greeted me with a smile and was a pleasure to know. Peggy Kelley

Peggy Kelley - November 29, 2022 at 11:42 AM

JG

I was in the National Guard unit here in Deer Lodge back in the 80's with Dave he was a E-6 I remember he ran triathlons or marathons rest in peace condolences to the family Jim Gaskell

Jim Gaskell - November 29, 2022 at 12:10 AM

PI

Wibaux and your family lost a wonderful servant of the community. I had the pleasure of working with Dave on the Horizon Leadership program, community projects, getting the Wibaux endowment started and judging at the Wibaux County Fair. He never took the glory, but was a real team player that made things happen behind the scenes. Thankful for the privilege of knowing such an honorable leader. Peggy Iba

Peggy Iba - November 28, 2022 at 09:12 PM

JS

To All of Dave's family and Loved ones. I had the pleasure of working with Dave as Extension Agent. His professionalism and work ethic were an example that many of us aspired to. Thank you for sharing him with us.

Jack Stivers

Jack I Stivers - November 28, 2022 at 12:05 PM

So sorry for your loss. I am a fellow Extension Agent and was very sorry to hear about Dave's passing. He was a wonderful agent and a genuinely kind man. Lisa Terry, Glacier County Extension

Lisa Terry - November 28, 2022 at 10:41 AM

MC

Very sad to hear of Dave's passing. He was a great county extension agent and really served the producers and the 4-H program well. He was one of the long time county agents in Eastern Montana who not only served agriculture but also were very involved on the community. Dave should also be remembered for his service to Wibaux and his time as mayor. He and Karen were also dedicated to keeping the Methodist Church going. His ability and leadership will be missed and God bless his memory and sustain his family. Mike Carlson

Mike Carlson - November 27, 2022 at 08:28 PM

RS

Rich Smith lit a candle in memory of David Bertelsen

Rich Smith - November 27, 2022 at 07:09 PM

BT

To Karen and family: Very sorry to hear that Dave had passed. A kind and gentle man. May the memories help you through this difficult time Bill and Sue Tidball

Bill Tidball - November 25, 2022 at 01:55 PM

SC

So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. He was a neighbor County Agent and we always relied on him to judge our fair and vice versa. We remember 4-H camps, Congress and other Extension meetings. He will be missed. Cherish the memories. Sherry and Arvid Corneliusen

Sherry and Arvid Corneliusen - November 24, 2022 at 10:31 PM

DW

So sorry to hear of Dave's passing. Spent a lot of time with him traveling when I was on the 4H council. A very nice guy. "DEATH leaves a heartache no one can heal, LOVE leaves a memory no one can steal". author unknown.

Debbie Weyer - November 23, 2022 at 07:04 PM

DS

To Dave's family,
My deepest sympathies to you in this loss. As teens we often gathered at Ovando and Helmville for those great country dances. There I got to know Dave. How surprised I was to find that we had both migrated to eastern Montana. May God be with you.
Darlene Praast Strobel
Fallon

Darlene L Strobel - November 22, 2022 at 10:46 AM

CH

Carol Hanson lit a candle in memory of David Bertelsen

Carol Hanson - November 21, 2022 at 09:27 PM