



David Alan Ostby

June 12, 1943 - October 30, 2021

David Alan Ostby, 78, passed away at the Extended Care Unit of the Prairie Community Hospital in Terry, MT on Saturday, October 30, 2021. No services are planned. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

He was “Dave” to his friends, “Uncle D” or “Uncle Davy” to many of his nieces and nephews and “David” to his parents and siblings. When we called him at work, the receptionist would say to him, “Dave, it must be your family, they asked for David.”

David was born in Glendive on June 12, 1943 to Olaf and Marie (Bronson) Ostby. He attended school in Glendive graduating with the Dawson County High School class of 1961. He graduated from Dawson College in 1963 and earned a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Montana State University, Bozeman, in 1966. He worked for a year in Billings at the Humble Oil Refinery and then moved to Seattle where he was a flight test engineer on Boeing’s 747 project. After Boeing, David worked as a mechanic in various automotive shops in the Seattle area allowing him to stay close to his interests in muscle cars and drag racing. In the early 1980’s, he moved to Townsend, MT for about two years and then returned to Seattle, retiring in 2008. He considered returning to Glendive after he retired but resisted because he preferred the Seattle climate. In 2011, he moved back to Glendive to be closer to family but always let it be known that he preferred cooler summers and warmer winters. He remained a devoted fan of the Seattle and University of

Washington sports teams, especially the Seahawks. He was also a fan of Rock and Roll music, especially AC/DC.

David was predeceased by his parents, two nephews, Steven Thompson and Kenneth Thompson, Ken's wife Maggie (Rogness) Thompson, brother-in-law Clyde Thompson and sister-in-law Patty Ostby.

He is survived by his sister, Lorraine Thompson of Glendive, two brothers, Norman (Jane) of Winnett, MT and Raymond (Natha) of Saratoga, CA, nieces and nephews Kris (Dan, deceased) Ruddy of Glendive, Shellie Cohen of New York City, Leslie Robinson of San Ramon, CA, Ethan (Staci) Ostby of Bridger, MT and Nate (Julia) Ostby of Hanover, MD and numerous great-nieces and nephews, great-great nieces and nephews and three great-great-great nephews.

He will be fondly remembered by two close friends, Rick Henry and Larry Wilken. He also leaves the memory of his red 1966 Plymouth Belvedere two-door sedan with a modified 426-Hemi engine that he bought new the year he graduated from college and lovingly drove, raced, showed and maintained for many years. The family thanks the nurses and staff of the Extended Care Unit of the Prairie Community Hospital for David's exemplary care for the past three years. Remembrances and condolences can be shared with the family at: [www. Silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.Silhafuneralhomes.com).

Tribute Wall



“ *David Alan Ostby*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal. My condolences to Dave's family. During the late 60's to the mid 80's in Seattle & Townsend Dave spent a lot of time with our family. Cheering for him at the race track was always a fun time. Yes he did love cars!! The last time I saw Dave was a couple years ago when he was in Billings at a medical facility. We had a nice visit sharing memories. RIP Dave.*

Vonnie Robson - November 06, 2021 at 07:17 AM



“ *Gary and I are saddened to hear of Dave's passing.. those boys had some great times... and the stories I could tell!! RIP friend!*
Gary and Karen Kampschror

Gary Kampschror - November 05, 2021 at 12:09 PM



“ *Our condolences to the family and friends of David Alan Ostby at this difficult time. Prayers to all.*



Denise and Joe Bortrager - November 04, 2021 at 09:36 PM

RB

“ *David, the little brother of Norman and big brother of Raymond! The quietest of the Ostby boys! Such a smart, quiet man! May he Rest In Peace!*
My sympathies to Lorraine, Norman, Raymond and families.

Rosemary Baldwin - November 03, 2021 at 07:42 PM

RW

“ *RIP Old Buddy, we built, broke and drove (rode) bicycles and cars for most of our teen years. Your 36 Plymouth 4dr and my 36 Ford 4dr took up most of our time, we both wanted wheels, so we had to fix or modify them. Mostly we learned by trial and error, but for sure you were the chief mechanic. Before we were done your Plymouth had dual carbs, dual exhaust, shaved head, lowered front, hydraulic brakes and modern tires/wheels. Thanks to you my \$25.00 36 Ford 4dr ended up with hydraulic brakes, a 48 Merc flathead V8 and dual exhaust. Oh those were the days.*

Even though we drifted apart after after High School, I always had fond memories of our time together during our formative years (even the bike years). I will never forget how proud you were of that 66 red Hemi Plymouth after you got out of college. dreams do come true.

Lorraine, Norman Raymond my condolences, Dave was a special friend. I regret not seeing more of him later in life.

Rusty wrigg

Rusty Wrigg - November 02, 2021 at 06:53 PM

RW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rusty Wrigg - November 02, 2021 at 06:32 PM

KR

Nice photo!

Kris Ruddy - November 04, 2021 at 01:16 AM

RW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rusty Wrigg - November 02, 2021 at 06:29 PM

JG

“ *Dave was soft spoken, kind and respectful person when he talked to me in high school. We talked some about cars and racing which I knew very little about. According to my oldest son I drove a muscle car when I drove a bright yellow Carnatic in the late 90s. Not sure he was right. I also drove 2 different Mitsubishi GT 3000. I think Dave might have enjoyed those, at least to look at.*

Judy Green - November 02, 2021 at 01:04 PM

LW

“ I am very sad to say goodbye to Dave and also glad his long stay at the nursing home are over. I pray he is in our Lords arms. I thank all the great nursing home people for their wonderful care of Dave. I was introduced to Dave in 1961 with Dave's 36 Plymouth & my 53 Plymouth, hopped up 6 cylinders, stop light to stop light, glass pack mufflers announcing our presence on Main Street, otherwise nobody would have known what we were up to. Daves love for cars continued to the 30's Ford convertible with Long Ram twin four barrel Plymouth 361 to the love of his life New 1966 Plymouth 426 Hemi car. Although he had other cars, nothing out shined this Hemi in his life. In the mid 1960's we both ended up in Seattle where we soon found SIR and Puyallup Raceways. Weather permitting, we many times raced three times a week. Dave continued building on the Hemi and ran consistent 11.00 second quarter mile times, disappointing, Dave never broke into the 10's. Several years Dave and I were also able to spend and enjoy a week at the Winter Nationals in Pomona,CA. Dave and I both moved back to Townsend, Montana in 1984 when Dave went to work for me at the dealership. After a few years we both realized the dealership was not what we had anticipated it would be and Dave moved back to Seattle. Dave went back to work for Big Dyno Motive building high performance cars and racing on Dave Wrens race team running the National Super Stock and Pro Stock scene. Dave's last venture on the Hemi car was to have Gaines Markley build him a Stroker motor which included the best of best to make it go fast. Unfortunately it was never run on the drag strip after that, but It was fast enough for Dave to consider it DANGEROUS!!! Dave made it full circle and ended up back in Glendive. Dave never lost his love of cars or his friends. Dave was always a very quiet, soft spoken man that would have never killed a fly. He was always there for you. I am so thankful for the life long, great friend and time we got to spent together. Dave was never rich but Dave lived his life Dave's way. He will be sorely missed. To my Best and life long Friend,

Larry Wilken

Larry Wilken - November 02, 2021 at 11:15 AM

KR

Thank you for the lovely tribute to David. It fills in time I didn't know much about. Thank you, also, for being such a great friend of his and sharing his love of drag racing! Kris

Kris Ruddy - November 04, 2021 at 12:07 PM

SM

“ I've known Dave since the late 50's early 60's as he ran with my older brother. After he moved back to Glendive he was in and out of my shop quite a bit and we enjoyed some really good conversations mostly having to do with cars and growing up in Glendive. Dave and his Red Plymouth will certainly be missed. God Speed Dave.

Scott Mills - November 01, 2021 at 11:27 PM