



## Dennis Leonard Harrison

October 16, 1954 - December 29, 2020

Dennis Harrison, age 66 of Billings, Montana passed away on Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at St. Vincent's Health Care in Billings. A Life Tribute Service will be held in Glendive, Montana with Celebrant Heidi Carney officiating. Due to COVID-19, masks are encouraged. There will be a public celebration of Dennis's life in the summer of 2021 in which everyone will be welcome to attend. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Dennis was born October 16, 1954 in Glendive. He attended Dawson County High School and graduated in 1972. After high school, Dennis worked for BNSF railroad as a train engineer for more than 40 years until his retirement in 2014. He married Fay Granmoe in 1977 and together they had 3 boys. Life at home with Dad was always an adventure. The best of him came from his parents, Grandpa Leonard and Grandma Norma. Dad got his kind, warm heart from Grandma, his wit and likeability from Grandpa; couple that with some good looks from both and you have Dad – a prince among men. Some smile with their mouth, others with their eyes, Dad permanently smiled with both. This garnered him the fitting nickname, “Hap”, as he was referred to by his childhood friends; also the name he used on his high school letterman jacket.

Dad grew up in Forest Park, before moving out to a ranch on 7 Mile Drive in the late 60's. He would run the hills and ride horses all day, causing trouble with the neighboring Schmidt kids. Dad loved horses, we could sense his

affection towards riding and it was always a special treat to get on a horse with him.

As kids, growing up in Glendive, we watched Dad dedicate himself to the railroad, which meant odd, long hours and trying to catch up on sleep while at home. However, he always made time for us and made us his priority. We remember countless hours of playing catch in the front yard or shooting hoops on the driveway. As nice and calm as Dad appeared, he was also fiercely competitive. He wouldn't let us beat him until we were actually good enough to beat him, which to this day we're not sure ever happened. He had a killer back-to-the-basket-in-the-paint-baby-hook-shot over the left shoulder -- basically unstoppable. Dad loved sports and passed that passion on to us. He enjoyed coaching all of us boys, which led to many adventures traveling the countryside. His influence as a coach is how most of our childhood friends will remember him. He had a way about him in coaching. He could teach the game of course, but he also offered a sense of calmness through his words and by simply putting his long arm around your shoulder with a little squeeze. It made you feel like you could accomplish anything.

Dad enjoyed gardening, cooking, and canning. His ribs were legendary and there was always a waiting list for his pickles and strawberry rhubarb jam. He was the best pool player in the world, just ask him and he'd let you know. It was always fun to watch him work over a pool table and carve out another victory over another unworthy opponent. He may have told a grandkid or two to "pull his finger". That was Grandpa D. Quick-witted one liners, perfectly timed sarcasm, and an uncanny joke telling ability were all part of his skill set. His jokes were a nice mix of utterly offensive, silly and funny, but mostly very difficult to pull off. He was a wonderful dancer, both jitterbugging and as a solo free-styler. He was not above attempting an unannounced 'worm' at a wedding, either. One time at a dance hall in Deadwood, he asked a stranger for a dance. He told her he had a dance "punch card", with only one punch left. It's an admirable trait to just have fun and not care what others think, and that was personified by him perfectly on the dance floor.

In 2006, Dad made the move to Billings to finish out his career and get a fresh start on life. It has been amazing to watch his contagious personality attract a new army of friends. We can't tell you how many people refer to Dad as their brother, their second Dad or their Best Friend. He genuinely cared about what others were saying. He brightened up any room he walked into. He had the incredible gift to connect with anyone that crossed his path.

While in Billings, he met his longtime girlfriend, Christy, and her son David. Though never married, he considered them family and loved them both. Over the years, he enjoyed spending time on their family ranch near Forsyth, Montana. The ranch served as a place of solitude, his happy place.

In closing, here's a toast to you Dad; a toast Dad used often:

"There are good ships and wood ships,  
Ships that sail the sea,  
But the best ships are friendships,  
May they always be!"  
We love you Dad!

"There is sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Norma Harrison. He is survived by his sons Bryce (Lezlee), Ty and Lance (Britny); sister Denise; girlfriend Christy Bierlein and her son, David (Marni); Six grandchildren Jane, Blake, Taycey, Kaysen, Kolbee and Karter; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews, who were all so very close to him.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis Leonard Harrison*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *I am an old friend of your Dad, and Mom. Fay and I were roommates in nursing school in Billings. So sorry to hear of Dennis' passing...🙏❤️🥺 Cheryl Driver Lenox*

**Cheryl Lenox** - March 30, 2021 at 06:20 PM



“ *Sending love in place of words...and prayers for everything your heart needs at this time.*

*Some of my greatest memories of my childhood with sports are because of Dennis. Either as my soccer coach, or having one of my siblings on the same team as one of his sons. I adored him and his endless smiles. He will be greatly missed!*

*- Laurel Struck (Eaton)*

**Laurel Struck** - January 13, 2021 at 01:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dennis Leonard Harrison.*



January 06, 2021 at 11:24 PM

PL

“ *Pam Lewis lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Pam Lewis** - January 05, 2021 at 08:54 PM

DS

“ *Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Denise Stoddart** - January 05, 2021 at 08:08 PM

MA

“ *Sincere condolences and prayers to the Harrison families. Beautifully written of a life well lived and loved. -Mary Lou Ayre*

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**ML Ayre** - January 05, 2021 at 04:19 AM

RS

*My thoughts and prayers are with Dennis's family. He was a man that touched so many hearts and lives. He will greatly be missed by myself and my family. Farewell my friend. Ruth Smith, Kim, Jessica and Bubba*

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**Ruth Smith** - January 05, 2021 at 06:14 PM

RA

“ Dennis was a Great Railroader, both to work with and for a while to work for. His outlook on life and his undying love for his boys came through with every smile, and he was always smiling. He got it all naturally from his wonderful parents. I'm sure that Goldy and Norma are holding you tight. Thanks for giving us all an opportunity to enjoy your unselfish friendship all these years. You will be missed terribly. RIP Dennis.

*Rolly and Barb Anvik*

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**Rolly and Barb Anvik** - January 04, 2021 at 02:00 PM

DK

“ Don Kautzmann lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison



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**don kautzmann** - January 04, 2021 at 01:32 PM

DM

“ To all of Dennis's family,  
Greg and I are so sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great guy and we have fond memories of him. Sincere condolences to all of you.

*Debbie and Greg McGovern*

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**Deborah McGovern** - January 04, 2021 at 12:49 AM

DB

“ *Dennis And Cindi Byron lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Dennis and Cindi Byron** - January 03, 2021 at 12:06 PM

SC

“ *So sorry to hear about Dennis. Cherish the memories!*  
*Sherry & Arvid Corneliusen*

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**Sherry Corneliusen** - January 03, 2021 at 10:51 AM

KB

“ *Bryce and family,*  
*So sorry for you and your family's loss. Sending my deepest*  
*condolences.*  
*Sincerely*  
*Kalyn (Myers) Briggs*

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**Kalyn Briggs** - January 03, 2021 at 01:09 AM

BL

“ *A mentor and a good friend, who will be missed*



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**Brent and Jill Lind** - January 02, 2021 at 08:28 PM

MA

“ *Michelle Allen lit a candle in memory of  
Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Michelle Allen** - January 02, 2021 at 08:09 PM

PV

“ *Pete And Deb Vogel lit a candle in memory of  
Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Pete and Deb Vogel** - January 01, 2021 at 09:41 PM

DS

“ *Denise Douglass Smith lit a candle in memory  
of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Denise Douglass Smith** - January 01, 2021 at 08:32 PM

ES

“ *Ed And Helen Schmitz lit a candle in memory  
of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



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**Ed and Helen Schmitz** - January 01, 2021 at 07:53 PM

BV

“ *Dennis was an amazing guy, who made all of us laugh every time we were around him. I will miss him dearly. Thinking of all of his family during this time.* ”



**Barb VonHagen** - January 01, 2021 at 11:19 AM

Jane Jarvis

“ *Jane Jarvis lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison* ”



**Jane Jarvis** - January 01, 2021 at 03:31 AM

TK

“ *Terry Knapp lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison* ”



**Terry Knapp** - December 31, 2020 at 04:23 PM

AM

“ *Our Sincere Sympathy and condolences for Dennis's Family!!* ”



**Alan & Mary Mooer** - December 31, 2020 at 01:41 PM

KZ

“ *Kay Zvolanek lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



**Kay Zvolanek** - December 31, 2020 at 09:55 AM

DS

“ *Digger And Jacky Boje Saur lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*

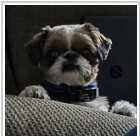


**Digger and Jacky Boje Saur** - December 30, 2020 at 09:52 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss. Dennis was a great man and will be missed by all.*

**Toni Goroski** - December 30, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *Toni Goroski lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison*



**Toni Goroski** - December 30, 2020 at 02:44 PM

MF

“ *Dennis was a great friend and coworker. He will be greatly missed. His family is in our thoughts and prayers* ”

**matt lesli fenner** - December 30, 2020 at 01:58 PM

MW

“ *Mark And Sheryl Walsh lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison* ”



**Mark and Sheryl Walsh** - December 30, 2020 at 12:52 PM

JL

“ *My condolences to Dennis's family. I will be thinking of you during this sad time.* ”



**Janette Legato** - December 30, 2020 at 12:50 PM

MH

“ *Mona Hathaway lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison* ”



**Mona Hathaway** - December 30, 2020 at 12:25 PM

MP

“ Sorry to hear of Dennis's passing,He was a prince among men and will be missed by all lucky enough to have known him.Condolences to the family

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**michael peel** - December 30, 2020 at 08:32 AM

DZ

“ Our prayers and sincere sympathy to Dennis's family.



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**Don and Penny Zimmerman** - December 30, 2020 at 08:18 AM

MH

“ Marvin And Sue Howe lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison



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**Marvin and Sue Howe** - December 30, 2020 at 05:41 AM

LT

“ Les And Gina Tipton lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison



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**Les and Gina Tipton** - December 30, 2020 at 12:41 AM

DB

“ Our condolences to Dennis Harrison family and friends at this difficult time. Remember attending many basketball games played on in high school  
We also worked with him on the BNSF Railroad. He was a great guy and will be greatly missed



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**Denise & Joe Borntreger** - December 30, 2020 at 12:22 AM

DD

“ Dan And Donna Dobson lit a candle in memory of Dennis Leonard Harrison



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**Dan and Donna Dobson** - December 29, 2020 at 07:54 PM

DD

*Upon reading the well written obituary, your love for your dad is overwhelming! May all your memories of the gentle giant, mentor, loving father and friend be held in your heart always!*

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**Dan and Donna Dobson** - January 04, 2021 at 04:13 PM