



## Donald "Don" Duane Heick

October 11, 1941 - November 11, 2021

Don Heick, age 80 of Glendive, Montana, passed away on November 11, 2021 (Veteran's Day) after fighting a valiant battle with COVID-19. He passed away at GMC Hospital surrounded by family. Don has been cremated.

Donald Duane Heick was born on October 11, 1941 to John Mike and Stella (Kromarek) Heick in Bowman, ND at home in his Grandma Heick's rocking chair. When he was in the 4th grade his family moved to Buffalo, SD for 6 months and then moved to Lead, SD and lived there for 3 years. The family then moved to Dillon, MT where he stayed until he was 17 years old. He quit school at the age of 13 and went to work on a ranch in Ennis, MT for 6 months, went back to Dillon and worked for a couple of ranchers there. He went to work for the Briggs Brothers outside of Dell, MT and after a short 3 month stay in Columbus he then joined the Navy in Billings, MT on Friday February 13, 1959. Don received his GED in the Navy. He went to San Diego for 9 weeks for Boot Camp. He was then stationed in Hawaii for 3 ½ years from May '59 until September of '62. Then he was discharged and went back to Bowman, ND and worked for H&H Services. After working there for only 87 days he made the decision to go to Rapid City, SD and re-enlisted in the Navy. He went to New York to the Brooklyn Navy Shipyard and was assigned to the USS Yamacraw WARC 333 as a cable layer for 2 years. During this time, broke his leg and spent 2 ½ months in Albany Naval Hospital. After 3 months of limited duty, he was assigned to the USS Belknap DLG26 – served 3 years on there. Homeport was Norfolk, VA.

Don married Patricia Meaney in Brooklyn, NY in April of 1964. They lived in Flatbush and moved to Norfolk, VA in 1965. Don & Pat adopted John Duane in May of 1968 and then Julie Diane in April of 1970.

In 1967 Don became an instructor in the Naval Air Conditioning & Refrigeration School for 3 years. Then he was assigned to the USS Lawrence DDG4 and went to Vietnam in 1970. He served in Vietnam for 7 months. He was then transferred to the USS Portland LPD15 for 3 years and then went to a MOTO2. After 3 years there, he retired as a Chief Petty Officer on December 30, 1977 at the age 36.

Don and his family moved from Virginia Beach, VA to Ekalaka, MT until 1978 and then moved to Glendive, MT. Don went to work for Browns Electric and built a home on Bloomfield highway. He and Pat divorced in 1987. Don started his own business called Don's Electric, which became a secondary job when he went to work for the BNSF Railroad in the signal department on September 4, 1990.

Don married Rosie Baisch Ley in April of 1989. Rosie passed away on July 7, 2001.

Don met Diane Henry on April 24, 2002. Don retired from the railroad in October of 2003. Don enjoyed his retirement years working on his building projects, cars, etc., and sharing many stories with family and friends. He rarely missed a day having coffee with his many friends.

Don was preceded in death by his father & mother (John & Stella Heck). Two brothers Jerry & Carrol Heck & his wife Rosie.

Don is survived by his partner of 20 years, Diane Henry, and ex-wife Patricia Heck of Orlando, FL. Son John (Beth) Heck of Flagstaff, AZ. Daughter Julie (Fred) Shaw of Bemidji, MN. John Henry of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Grandchildren Samantha (Jared) Shaw, Jesse (Malenny) Rue, Justin Shaw, Matt & Elise Heck. Three great-grandchildren Calvin, Arthur, and Ellie Lou. Brother Nick (Becky) Heck of Surprise, AZ. Sister Eileen Mittelstedter of Rapid City, SD.

A Graveside Service with military honors will be held at 11:00 AM on July 16, 2022 in the Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive with John Heick officiating. Following the graveside service, a luncheon will be held at the VFW in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Dawson Memorial Cemetery

2816 West Towne Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (MT)

Dawson Memorial Cemetery  
2816 West Towne Street  
Glendive, MT 59330

# Tribute Wall



“ Donald "Don" Duane Heick

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Don and Pat lived across the road from us. Julie was also our babysitter for years! Every time I'd see don in town he always had a smile and we'd catch up on the news of the kids! Don will be missed.

Virginia and Les - July 13, 2022 at 04:27 PM



“ Jamie And Teresa Chamberlain lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Duane Heick



Jamie and Teresa Chamberlain - November 18, 2021 at 11:04 PM



“ John, sending big hugs and keeping you and yours in my prayers.

Tonya Tysver - November 17, 2021 at 07:29 PM



“ Monica Amundson lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Duane Heick



Monica Amundson - November 17, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ *My dearest Julie - wrapping you in love and giggling at the memories. What a journey this past year. John - love and hugs to you and your family. Love You Both. Monica*

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**Monica Amundson** - November 17, 2021 at 04:24 PM



“ *Diane and Family so sorry for your loss you are in my prayers.*



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**Linda Frank** - November 17, 2021 at 04:44 AM



“ *Diane & family, not sure what happened to my first post, but wanted to say so sorry to hear about Don. He surely will be missed by the coffee group at Subway & his other little groups. Cherish all the many fond memories.*

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**Cherise** - November 16, 2021 at 07:42 PM



“ *Diane & Family, we are very sad to hear of your loss of Don. I know you have many good memories of him. We will miss seeing him at coffee.*



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**Marcia & Keith Mitchell** - November 15, 2021 at 11:56 PM

KO

“ John and Julie, I'm so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. Sending Big Hugs and Prayers to you All!!

*Kristina Overlie*



Kristina Overlie - November 15, 2021 at 11:28 AM

DS

“ Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Duane Heick



Denise Stoddart - November 14, 2021 at 09:49 PM

LC

“ Larry & Roberta Carlson lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Duane Heick



Larry & Roberta Carlson - November 13, 2021 at 05:43 PM

V2

“ VVA Chapter 234 lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Duane Heick



VVA Chapter 234 - November 13, 2021 at 11:45 AM

SS

“ *Sorry for your loss*



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**Sue Schwindt** - November 13, 2021 at 09:52 AM

DB

“ *Diane. We are sending our condolences to you, family, and friends at this difficult time. Joe and I enjoyed with Don when we were in Glendive. He will be missed by all who knew him.*



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**Denise and Joe Bortrager** - November 13, 2021 at 03:16 AM