



Donald Kirkpatrick

August 15, 1929 - February 9, 2024

This obituary is written by me about me.

I was born August 15, 1929, in Sentinel Butte, ND to Charles M. Kirkpatrick and Elsie Carlson Kirkpatrick.

I was the third youngest of 4 children. My mother died when I was three years old. My father was remarried to Grace Moyer. I left home when I was 13 years old and stayed with a relative and went to school and worked at a grocery store in the afternoon. This all took place in Stockdale, Ohio.

My dad came and took me to Idaho. There I finished the 10th grade and went to work for the Idaho National Forest Service and was placed on a lookout tower in the summertime. That is where I found my higher power whom I chose to call God. I have said the Lord's Prayer every day since. I have had three spiritual awakenings.

I joined the Army in January 1946 at the age of 16, in Fort Lewis, Washington. And then went to Fort Sam Houston, Texas for my basic training. Then was shipped to Fort Richardson, Alaska into the 171st Signal Corps where I became a cable splicer. I was promoted to the rank of Staff Sargent, in charge of three telephone exchanges, construction and repair.

I came to Montana on military leave and met Pat Lund in Wibaux, Montana. She and three other girls came to Alaska to work in civil service, and we were married December 31, 1948, in Palmer, Alaska. To this marriage 3 children were born, Gary, Deb, and Candis.

I took an Alaskin Discharge, and came to Billings, Montana in 1949 to work for

Mountain Bell Telephone Company. Working there for 35 years before retirement in December 1983. I worked 2 years contracting after retirement. I was an avid hunter and sportsman. Hunting and fishing most of my time in Montana. I was a bowler and won Montana Men's State Doubles in 1959 with Sylvan Graff. I played golf and had 2 holes in one on the Par Three course in Billings and a hole in one, Eagle, at Peter Yegan in Billings.

I shot trap and won awards in A, B, C, and D divisions. Loading my own shells was an enjoyable hobby, and I won a Bronze Medal in the Big Sky Olympics. After living most of his life in Billings, Don and his wife Pat move to Glendive in 2017. At that time Don became a resident of Eastern Montana Veterans Home (EMVH) until his passing. Don was a member of the Billings Shrine Clown Unit, bringing many years of joy to adults and children. He also dressed up as Honey Dew the Clown for grandchildren's birthdays, tying balloons and playing magic tricks. While at EMVH he was honored with a handmade Quilt of Valor by the local Quilters of Valor Foundation. Don also received the High Honorary of being a Scottish Rite Mason for Fifty Years.

Don was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, and daughter Debbie Newell. Don's survivors include son Gary and wife Cathy of Glendive, MT, son-in-law Tom Newell of Hodges, MT, daughter Candis and her husband Tom Parker of Billings, MT; sister-in-law Ethel Lund of Carlyle, MT; seven grandchildren; granddaughter Danielle and husband Ryan Burrows of Laurel, MT, granddaughter Jenny and husband Scott Ree of Wibaux, MT, granddaughter Jill and husband Shawn Wilcox of Glendive, MT, grandson Carl Newell, FT Smith, MT, granddaughter Carly and husband Kent Kahl of Wibaux, MT, granddaughter Calee and husband Todd Schlaebitz of Port Orchard, WA, granddaughter Lexi and husband Ricardo Aguilar of Granite Falls, WA; 19 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials can be made to the Wibaux Endowment Fund, PO Box 248, Wibaux, MT 59353, Eastern Montana Veterans Home, 2000 Montana Ave, Glendive, MT 59330, Billings Scottish Rite, 514 – 14th ST W, Billings, MT 59102 or your local Masons/Shriners organization.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com. Family service plans are pending.

Tribute Wall

VV

“ VVA#234 lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick



VVA#234 - February 14, 2024 at 04:01 AM

BJ

“ Bob Dixie Justice lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick



Bob and Dixie Justice - February 13, 2024 at 08:00 PM

TK

“ Terry Deb Knapp lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick



Terry & Deb Knapp - February 13, 2024 at 03:34 PM

JB

“ jim alice bachmeier lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick



jim and alice bachmeier - February 13, 2024 at 11:23 AM

CK

Thank you...Jim and Alice of Don and his family. Don loved to fish, and had lots of stories.

Cathy Kirkpatrick - February 14, 2024 at 08:39 AM

GK

“ *Grace Koffler lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick*



Grace Koffler - February 13, 2024 at 08:37 AM

CK

Thank you Grace, you have been a good friend.

Cathy Kirkpatrick - February 14, 2024 at 08:38 AM

NH

“ *Nita Haugan lit a candle in memory of Donald Kirkpatrick*



Nita Haugan - February 13, 2024 at 01:14 AM

CK

Thank you Nita...we appreciate you prayers.

Cathy Kirkpatrick - February 14, 2024 at 08:38 AM

MG

“ To Donald's family - I am so sorry for your loss. Donald was a nice man. He was always so well dressed, he looked more like he should be out on a golf course rather than at EMVH.

I met him through working with the group that does Sunday evening church services at local senior facilities. He was always friendly and though he usually declined the invitation to attend church, he had been coming more often over the past year.

His spot in the dining room looked so empty yesterday. . . I will miss him.

Marilyn Green - February 12, 2024 at 09:47 AM

CK

Thank you Marilyn for your nice comments and care you provided for Don.

Cathy Kirkpatrick - February 14, 2024 at 08:35 AM

DG

“ I am so sorry to hear about Don's passing. I loved seeing him at the Vets Home and it always made me very happy when he would accept my invitation to come to the church services.

Darren Green - February 11, 2024 at 02:22 AM

CK

Thank you for asking Don to join you. He loved going to church when he was able.

Cathy Kirkpatrick - February 14, 2024 at 08:37 AM