



Donald Skartved

October 1, 1937 - February 18, 2025

SSG Donald Skartved, a man who was given no middle name upon his birth on October 1, 1937, endeavored to make a name for himself in this world. He was the son of Knut and Neva Marie (Jimison) Skartved and was raised at the family homestead by the Yellowstone River in Glendive, MT, until he was placed in the home of Merlin and Myrtle Bouchard. There, he learned more about farming, ranching, how to drive farm machinery, and how to fix things. His restless spirit drove him to join the carnival, which he enjoyed because he got to work with the racing ponies. He found that he still wanted more, so on January 4, 1955, he joined the Air Force.

After 9 months of service and with a single stripe on his arm, Donald became the maintenance sergeant overseeing the fleet of F86 F Sabre Fighters. He served with honors in Korea and Vietnam, eventually serving with the 507th Medical Squadron. One of his favorite places to be stationed was Japan. Don met his wife, Jane Marie (Hill) in Texas where she was working at a local diner. He came in, hungry, seeking comfort food, and asked if she knew how to make an egg burger. She did, of course, and he married her 6 months later. He and Jane went to France and moved to many bases in the United States. Don and Jane welcomed three children while he served in the Air Force: Scott, Eric, and Dean. Retirement from the Air Force was not pleasant at all for Donald. He worked as a civilian at Dupont in Chicago, Illinois, making explosives, but having to make his way to work through angry Vietnam War

protestors was wearying. He wanted to go back into the Air Force, but that request could not be accommodated. The Army, however, was more than happy to recruit him. He lost one stripe in the bargain but was once again in the service of the United States of America and found his way back to Vietnam.

He served as the only fixed wing mechanic and inspector of the 101st Airborne Division, the Screamin' Eagles. He always laughed when he told us about being a fixed wing mechanic working on helicopters. But there was an old saying in the 101st, "If Skartved didn't inspect it, it wasn't inspected." After leaving Vietnam again, Don settled down with Jane and the boys in San Antonio, Texas, where they welcomed their fourth child, Sue. In April of 1976, they moved to Glendive, MT, where they made their home across the pasture from the old homestead where his stepfather, Jacob, lived.

Donald worked for Hagenston's Hardware, co-founded D&M Sprinkler Service, worked with Crisafulli, and eventually started Taxi-One. He loved serving the community, especially helping the ladies he would take in the senior citizen bus. They loved him too, often baking him special cookies and treats to take home. He worked later on a road construction crew with Louie Byron and was delighted that he got to work on a road in Lawrence Welk's hometown.

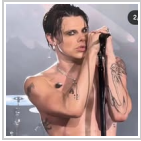
Donald lived a life that was full and meaningful. His legacy is one of service and sacrifice, and he did both with honor and distinction. He was willing to drop everything to help his children, his brothers or sister, or any number of little ladies around town fix appliances, cars, or even build a home. He loved to tinker with farm equipment and make new machines out of pieces and parts of other implements when he wasn't swathing or baling hay or chopping wood.

Donald passed away at the Eastern Montana Veteran's Home in Glendive on February 18, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, Knut, his mother,

Neva, his stepfather, Jacob, foster parents Merlin and Myrtle Bouchard, his brothers Vernon, Harold, and John, his wife of 49 years, Jane, and his special son, Dean. He is survived by his brother, Edward (Glenda), his sister, Nora, his sons Scott (Carrie), Eric (Shana), and his daughter, Sue (Jerod). He is survived also by his grandchildren: Jasmine, Josh, Justin, Jessi, Trevor, Raegan, Connor, Emma, Lilly, and Gannon, and six great grandchildren. Donald will be greatly missed, but we endeavor to carry his legacy of service and sacrifice with us and hold his memory in our hearts.

A private family service is scheduled for March 14, 2025. Silha Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

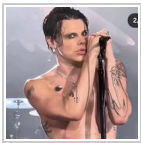
Tribute Wall



“ *Kymberley Allen lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved*



Kymberley Allen - October 14, 2025 at 09:43 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy to Scott, Eric, Sue, and their families. Don was a good man. He is now with Jane and Dean. Hugs and Prayers to you all. ~~~Kymber and Rayne Allen*

Kymberley Allen - March 13, 2025 at 08:29 AM



“ *Your family is in our prays*



Dixie and Bob Justice - March 11, 2025 at 07:52 PM



“ *Andeen Raymond lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved*



Andeen Raymond - March 11, 2025 at 11:25 AM

VV

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



VVA#234 - March 10, 2025 at 07:44 PM

SH

“ 3 files added to the album Donald Skartved



Silha Funeral Home - March 05, 2025 at 04:50 PM

EØ

“ Thanks for meeting up and share family stories when I was there



Espen Ørland - March 01, 2025 at 10:45 AM

PG

“ Paula Gorder lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved



Paula Gorder - February 27, 2025 at 06:47 PM

LS

“ *Laura Sevier lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved*



Laura Sevier - February 26, 2025 at 08:56 PM

HF

“ *Heather Frank lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved*



Heather Frank - February 22, 2025 at 10:03 PM

JS

“ *Don, thanks for your service to our country and for the many friendly conversation ! And thanks for raising a wonderful daughter, who it is a blessing to have as a daughter-in-law!*

Jim Schaefer - February 22, 2025 at 06:15 PM

AS

“ I was a little kid when I first met Mr Skartved. He had to keep coming out to our house to fix the washing machine. My mother washed the cucumbers, carrots, small potatoes in the washer. My mother would run the ones she could can for pickles and small potatoes to can as well. She would run it on rinse just to get the dirt off. Mr. Skartved would get a call from one of us kids about the washer. It got to the point where he would just about know we were going to call. He would keep it going just until the end od canning and then he would bring in another one. He'd fix ours so it would be ready for next season, then when the next season would end wed get our washer back and he'd take the one we had and fix it. He always said we were the only family with a revolving washer. I will sure miss talking to him about those old times. He grew up with my mom's family. I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Skartved God gave you some beautiful wing to soar high and wide with. Tell me family hello.



Again The Skartved Family has all of our deepest sympathy and condolences.

Arlene Gieser & Betty Oakes Sattler - February 20, 2025 at 11:00 PM

CE

“ CJ Erhardt lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved



CJ Erhardt - February 20, 2025 at 06:48 PM

KE

“ Kevin Kampschorr, Esq. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Donald Skartved.



Kevin Kampschorr, Esq. - February 20, 2025 at 02:50 PM

CH

“ Cheryl Haggerty lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved



Cheryl Haggerty - February 20, 2025 at 02:31 PM

AS

“ I'm so sorry to hear about DDon. He is pain free and able to get around. Just think, he is giving your mom a big hug! :) H'll be missed by all who knew him. Scott, Eric and family you are in our prayers.

Annie Utgaard Schafer - February 20, 2025 at 01:59 PM

WM

“ Walter McKeen lit a candle in memory of Donald Skartved



Walter McKeen - February 20, 2025 at 01:30 PM