



Estil Franks

October 25, 1941 - February 1, 2021

On February 1, 2021, Daddy saddled up his horse for his final ride. He rode up to Passage Falls where he tossed in a fly to catch one last cut throat at his cabin. He made his way up to Burnt Flats, and over to Thompson Lake. One last trip through Big Pine Basin and up Prairie Ridge as he made his way to mount Wallace. He rode down Grizzly Creek, around Hell Roaring, Carpenter Lake, and over to Knox Lake. When he got to the Gates of Heaven, he looked back at all of us and whispered, "It's been a hell of a ride." Grandpa Franks met him at the Gates of Heaven, turned back to Grandma and said, "Bessie, Jr. is here! Get this youngin somethin to eat!"

Estil Earnest Franks, Jr. was born October 25th, 1941 in a small cabin up Mill Creek near Pray, Montana, to Estil Earnest Franks, Sr. and Bessie Franks. The family eventually moved to Livingston, where Estil would attend and graduate from high school. It was there on 10th Street where he would meet the love of his life, Diane Morgensen, at the ripe young age of 16. Those two houses, merely a block apart, would become the canvas and the start of a fairytale relationship. From that day forward the two would become inseparable for the next 63 years. They married May 11th, 1963 in St. Mary's Church in Livingston. Estil worked for the City of Livingston for a short time until he landed a position with Burlington Northern Railroad, where a lifelong career as an Electrician would transpire. He loved his job, and he was damn good at it. In 1986, he was transferred to Glendive, where he would again teach his family how to make the best of any situation life threw your way. He

had an amazing sense of humor and a great attitude. He didn't demand respect, people just respected him. One of his co-workers once asked Diane, "Is he always happy? He smiles and whistles all day at work." Yes, that infectious smile beamed with pride and confidence, knowing no job was too tough for him. He loved his co-workers, and called most of them "friends." He was a man of his word. If he said it, he meant it. After 38 years of service, Estil retired from the railroad in Glendive.

The love and life lessons Estil taught his family, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will be cherished for generations. Whether it was going out and getting meat for the hook and teaching us to process it ourselves, to building a fire, or even just lending a caring ear, he did it with attentiveness and meaning. He was the greatest "Life" teacher we have ever known.

His love of his grandchildren was top priority. He lived for his grandkids. He even loved his grandchildren's friends, who many would also address him as "Papa." His garage walls are still plastered with artwork from his "babies," and he never got tired about telling the stories behind them, and you never got tired of hearing them. There were no boundaries when it came to pleasing his grandkids and great-grandkids...NONE. Makeup? Yep. Paint your fingernails Papa? Yep. Toe nails? Sure. It didn't matter. If it made them smile or laugh, he was all in. He would always light up like a Christmas tree with a teary twinkle in his eye when they would show up or surprise him. He truly cherished them. Estil Earnest Franks, Jr. It was an honor to call his Son. It was an honor to call him Brother, Husband, Uncle, Dad, and Papa...but most of all, it was an honor to call him "Friend."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Estil Earnest Franks, Sr. and Bessie Franks; brothers, Garret Franks and Clyde Franks, sisters, Rhonda Wiltgen and Winona Horsely; half-brother, Paul Franks; and half-sisters, Nancy Hedgecock and Joanne Osborne.

Estil is survived by his wife, Diane Franks of Glendive; his children, Michelle Franks Bailey (Joe) of Belgrade, Montana and Mark Franks (Bekki) of Glendive; grandchildren, Tyler (Lindy) Allen, Cj (Cassi) Berberet, Lane

Berberet, Jaxon Bailey, Trista Bailey, Alissa Bailey, Lexi Bailey, Morgan Franks, and Axton Franks; great-grandchildren, Cooper and Carter Berberet, Maddison, Joseph, Tony, and Christian Allen, and Kole, Cruz, Duncan, and Amara Bailey; sisters, Margaret (Peter) Naphine of Livingston, Loretta Goben of York, Nebraska, and Kathy (Ric) Bailey of Austin, Minnesota; brother, John (Deb) Franks of Livingston; sisters-in-law, Sheila Franks of Livingston, Jamie Franks of Austin, Minnesota, Colette (Ray) Olson of Livingston, and Muriel Morgensen of Livingston; brother-in-law, Steve Wiltgen of Livingston; and countless nieces and nephews.

The family will be receiving friends to celebrate the life of Estil from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at the Silha Tribute Center. Graveside services will be held in Livingston at a later date. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Previous Events

Family to Receive Friends

FEB 13. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Silha Tribute Center
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Estil Franks*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Diane and family, just found out Cousin Estil had passed on. So sorry, our prayers and heart felt condolences go out to you and the family. Please give the kids a hug for us. I could clearly see Estil coming down the trail up on Six Mile Creek when I read the obituary. Again, our prayers are with you. Love, Rodney Rex and Shirley Gearheart*

rodney gearheart - March 04, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ *Robert Adams lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks*



Robert Adams - February 13, 2021 at 04:29 PM



“ *Aaron Sondra and Faith Nichols purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Estil Franks.*



Aaron Sondra and Faith Nichols - February 11, 2021 at 12:03 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Estil Franks.*



February 09, 2021 at 08:09 PM



“ *We have fond memories of Estil. He was part of lives for many years both as a coworker and as a friend. Not only was his family part of our lives through activities and the childcare provided by Dianne and Michell but also his way of making everyone feel happy to have known him. When he and his family were putting a road into Passage Creek we were camping in Mill Creek. They would stop at our campsite and indulge in a few beers and discuss the days efforts. I would add that before they left Steve would deplete our whole days firewood and everyone would have chuckle about that. We would await the time when we would hear the sound of that old Ford truck coming down the mountain and the ensuing fireside chats and comradery. So long pardner and remember don't shoot that bull on the first day so you can enjoy the whole season.*

Bob & Lori Moore

Robert C. Moore - February 08, 2021 at 10:13 PM

CT

“ Mich, Diane, and Mark I will never forget all of the fun we had when you lived up on the hill. Estil was a true gem and one of a kind. His smile was bigger than life and his laugh was infectious. The father daughter pack trips were the best times. He made this world a better place and I am honored to have known him. He’s now joined the ranks in heaven with many family and friends that departed before him. Rest assured he’s in peace and happy. You all have a new guardian angel watching over you. I love you and may your memories os Estil always comfort you. Hugs ~ Chris, Sam and Delaynie Treat

Chris Treat - February 07, 2021 at 01:35 PM

TH

“ Proverbs 17:22 reads, "A merry heart doth good like a medicine." As I ponder Uncle Estil's life, this verse continually floods my thoughts. His merry heart was a medicine for all. His humor brought both healing and harmony. After my Mom's stroke, Estil was the first to make her laugh. With a broken heart he disciplined himself to find and facilitate joy. "Oh, Estil!" as her face and laugh reversed in time; facilitating peace, normalcy, and hope. He continually modeled, to me, that life, while often serious and significant, is best met and moved forward by achieving and maintaining a merry heart. The world is lighter because he lived. My love to Aunt Diane, Michelle, and Mark!

Timothy Horsley - February 07, 2021 at 11:51 AM

MF

“ Diane and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in knowing that others care and are sending prayers for your peace.

Marlys Eggum and Family - February 06, 2021 at 10:22 PM

GS

“ So sorry to read of Estil passing. Our hearts are with the family. We have many wonderful memories of our adventures with Estil and Diane years ago.
Gary and Bobbie Snavely

Gary D Snavely - February 06, 2021 at 02:20 PM

MS

“ Estil was a Great man,always a positive attitude, always helping others . I hadn't seen him in years, but I will never forget the great person he was! RIP, sir!

Mark Sigler - February 05, 2021 at 11:33 PM

RC

“ Even 50 years latter I have great memories of motorcycle and snowmobile riding with Estile He always made me feel like an equal even tho I was a punk kid, maybe it was his smile and easy laugh. He was probably my Dad's best friend. My heart goes out to the whole family

Rodger Clark - February 05, 2021 at 10:46 PM

LB

“ Lane Berberet lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Lane Berberet - February 05, 2021 at 09:54 PM

MS

“ *Our thoughts are with you. Estil will be truly missed. Prayers to you all.*

Lars and Mary Scarpholt

Mary Scarpholt - February 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *Diane and family, I am so sorry for your loss of Estil. May your memories help you through these difficult days and in the future. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

June Boje - February 04, 2021 at 10:34 PM

TL

“ *Terry & Cathy Lobdell lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks*



Terry & Cathy Lobdell - February 04, 2021 at 10:13 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Estil Franks.*



February 04, 2021 at 08:46 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Estil Franks.*



February 04, 2021 at 02:29 PM



“ *Michelle and family, what a beautiful tribute to your father, and all the things I remember most about him! I recall that bright smile and jovial laughter and kindness and that he and Diane always had an open home to anyone who came to visit. Rest in peace, Estil, and may you, Michelle, Diane, Mark, and family, rest in the love of your family and all the memories. My thots are with you~ I love you, Michelle. <3 Bekki Gray Hashley*

Bekki Gray Hashley - February 04, 2021 at 01:50 PM



I love you Bek❤️ Thank you!

Michelle Franks - February 04, 2021 at 11:06 PM



We are shocked and grieved by the loss of Estil. Know that you all are very special to us and we treasure the memories we have made together.

*With love,
Gracie, Chris, Mark, and Ann*

Gracie Scher - February 05, 2021 at 07:43 PM

MF

“ Michelle Franks lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Michelle Franks - February 04, 2021 at 09:37 AM

NT

“ Diane I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.



Noreen Turnquist - February 04, 2021 at 09:22 AM

PV

“ Diane and family, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time 🙏🕊️🙏

Pete and Deb Vogel - February 04, 2021 at 01:36 AM

PV

“ Pete And Deb Vogel lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Pete and Deb Vogel - February 04, 2021 at 01:35 AM

MS

“ Diane & Family, We are thinking if you all during this difficult time.
Sending Hugs to each of you!!

Mike & Jacky Boje Saur - February 03, 2021 at 07:36 PM

JB

“ Jerry Bowles lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Jerry Bowles - February 03, 2021 at 01:18 PM

GE

“ Grace Koffler Evinrude lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Grace Koffler Evinrude - February 03, 2021 at 10:09 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. I just loved his smile and laugh, it was contagious! May God give you guys strength to get through the grief. Love, Lesa and Ty Schock

Lesa Schock - February 03, 2021 at 10:07 AM

Jane
Jarvis

“ *Jane Jarvis lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks*



Jane Jarvis - February 03, 2021 at 12:24 AM

DZ

“ *Dianne and family, our sincere condolences to you. Hold those memories near to your hearts and he will live on through them. Gone but not forgotten. Hugs and love!*



Don and Penny Zimmerman - February 02, 2021 at 09:36 PM

BT

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss! He will be missed greatly!*



Becky Tipton - February 02, 2021 at 07:54 PM

DS

“ *Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks*



Denise Stoddart - February 02, 2021 at 07:28 PM

GP

“ Greg & Dixie Post lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks



Greg & Dixie Post - February 02, 2021 at 04:23 PM

GC

“ So sorry Diane!! My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!!

Geri Cullinan - February 02, 2021 at 12:23 PM

SD

“ Diane and family, I am so sorry to hear of Estil's passing. I am sending you hugs and prayers.

Sherilyn Sender Danielson - February 02, 2021 at 11:55 AM

RR

“ Diane and Family,

Please accept my deepest sympathy for Estil's passing. He was an amazing guy and an even more amazing neighbor!

Ryan Ruddy

Ryan Ruddy - February 02, 2021 at 10:52 AM

AG

“ *Arlene Gieser sent a virtual gift in memory of Estil Franks*



Arlene Gieser - February 02, 2021 at 07:42 AM

TD

“ *Diane and family- I'm so sorry for your loss of Estil. Cherish the memories as you will always have them. Estil was a funny guy and always smiling when I saw him. My thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP Estil!*



Tammy Dey - February 01, 2021 at 11:56 PM

LF

“ *Linda Frank lit a candle in memory of Estil Franks*



Linda Frank - February 01, 2021 at 04:52 PM

LF

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Estil's passing. Always liked talking to him, he had a great sense of humor. You all are in my thoughts and prayers in this difficult time of sadness.*



Linda Frank - February 01, 2021 at 04:48 PM

KM

Estil and Diane are like sugar and spice. What a great couple, always a smile on their face, so much fun to visit with. Estil, a good man now gone on to his heavenly reward.

kevin mcgovern - February 02, 2021 at 08:55 AM

JB

We are sending lots of love with our deepest sympathy to all of Estils family. Estil was truly one of a kind, lived life to the fullest and with gusto. He is going to be missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him. Love you Franks'!!!

Jerry Bowles - February 03, 2021 at 01:26 PM

MS

Diane and family, I am so sad for all of you. I was sorry to hear that Estil was called to take his final pack trip to heaven. Always a smile on his face and complete acceptance of those he met. I will never forget the pack trip I was privileged to be a part of. may God's amazing peace cover all of you and may Your precious memories be a healing balm to your hearts. Estil was precious man and as is all the Franks.

Marybeth Wiltgen Squires - February 05, 2021 at 11:51 AM

AK

Diane, family and friends, I have been praying and sending love to all of you. Estil was such a great friend of Steve's and we always enjoyed the times spent visiting with Estil. He always greeted us with that BIG SMILE and friendly hug or handshake. He was very proud of his family and you are a tribute to him. May this help to comfort you and sharing those wonderful memories will help you also in the days to come. Love and Prayers , Anita and Gene Kurtz

Anita Kurtz - February 05, 2021 at 07:50 PM

MJ

Diane so shock to hear about Estil You and your family are in our prayers.Will talk soon. Love Milt & Mabel Johnson

Mabel Johnson - February 06, 2021 at 01:02 PM