



Gordon Ross Schlabach

August 28, 1947 - September 11, 2014

Gordon Ross Schlabach, age 67, of Glendive, Montana passed away on Thursday, September 11, 2014 at his home in Glendive. A memorial service will be held at 3:00 P.M. MDT on Monday, September 15, 2014 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive with Reverend James Hageman officiating. Interment with military honors will be held at 3:00 P.M. CDT on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Bismarck, North Dakota. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive and Eastgate Funeral Service of Bismarck have been entrusted with the arrangements.

Ross was born in the town of Bismarck on August 28, 1947 to Rex and Irma (Wahlman) Schlabach. He was raised in Driscoll, North Dakota long with his 2 brothers and 1 sister. Ross graduated from Driscoll High School in 1965. He went on to North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, North Dakota to become an electrician in 1967.

On August 11, 1967, Ross married the love of his life, Shirley Schlafman. They moved to Glendive where Ross was employed by MDU. Ross honorably served in Vietnam from 1968-1969 where he attained the rank of Army Specialist First Class. When he returned from Vietnam, he continued his employment at MDU. The couple made their home in Glendive where they raised their three children. Ross had recently retired from MDU in 2012 before Shirley passed away on July 18th, 2013.

Ross was a proud American Veteran and an avid outdoorsman. He loved to hunt deer and elk. Makoshika State Park was one of his favorite places in Glendive where he loved shooting archery, mountain biking, and jogging. He also loved to snow ski and enjoyed family vacations at Big Sky and Red Lodge. When his kids were younger, he spent a lot of time at the baseball fields coaching their teams. Baseball was his favorite sport and he told many stories about playing ball in Driscoll. Ross also had a gift for woodworking and spent many hours in his garage and at the DCHS wood shop. In recent months, he enjoyed volunteering as a sidewalk superintendent and painting the wall at the new football field. Ross was a special man that cared deeply for his family and friends. He was willing to help out whenever he was needed. Shirley provided childcare in their home through the years and those kids became family. Ross always held a special place in his heart for his 6 grandchildren and would always light up with a smile when talking to them or cheering them on. He was a proud father, grandfather and caring man. He will forever be missed very much by all of us who loved him. We find comfort knowing Ross is reunited with Shirley in Heaven.

Ross was preceded in death by his wife, Shirley; his father, Rex Schlabach; his mother in law, Ruby Schlafman; his father in law, Otto Schlafman; his brother in law, Tom Vollmuth; and two nephews, Allen and Kristofor Vollmuth. Ross is survived by his two sons, Michael Schlabach and his wife Michelle from Gilbert, AZ, and Scott Schlabach and his wife Christy from Tucson, AZ; one daughter, Tamara Guesanburu and her friend Chad Bondurant from Gillette, WY, six grandchildren, Cody, Katie, Rachel, Hailey, Matthew, and Lexi; his extended family, Matthew and Christopher Iba and Brittany and Josh Miller, his mother Irma Schlabach from Bismarck, ND; his brothers, Larry Schlabach and his wife Starla from Bismarck, ND, and Leonard Schlabach and his wife Kathy from Bismarck, ND; his sister Cheryl Martell and her husband Vern from Bismarck, ND; and his sister in law Pam Vollmuth from Stanton, ND.

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

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Gardens

Highway 83 North
Bismarck, ND 58501

Previous Events

Service

SEP **15**. 3:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Home
221 North Meade Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Interment with military honors

SEP **16**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Sunset Memorial Gardens
Highway 83 North
Bismarck, ND 58501

Tribute Wall



“ *Gordon Ross Schlabach*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Tami and family, My thoughts are with you on the loss of you father. He was a very nice man, always gracious and had a smile for you. Sandra Brown*

sandra brown - September 18, 2014 at 01:05 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Ross. I've known your folks for many years. They were such great people. Cherish all the fond memories! I will truly miss both their smiling faces.*

Cherise Patterson - September 16, 2014 at 05:38 PM



“ *Ross was a gentle man who would always stop and chat whenever I saw him. I have known him and Shirley from way back in the 70's. Those two were the best of the best. Him and Shirley are rejoicing in Heaven and catching up on all the news. RIP Ross you certainly earned those golden wings. You will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing you.*

Cindi Byron - September 16, 2014 at 02:28 PM

KH

“ Ross held a special place as a guest at the Holiday Inn Express in Miles City. He was a true gentleman.



Katy Harbaugh - September 16, 2014 at 08:19 AM

JH

“ Ross and Shirley kindly allowed me to join their family on a ski trip. Chains were placed on the truck for the trip down from the mountain. I was sitting on the passenger side and Ross asked me to keep an eye on the rear wheel, just in case one of the chains were to come loose. That way I could provide warning before the chain beat the dickens out of the truck.

Well, the chain did come loose, and the stupid kid that I was didn't recognize it, didn't provide a warning and didn't prevent the truck from getting a beat down.

I have not forgotten the miserable feeling I had when Ross discovered the damage. But even greater I shall never forget the grace and composure Ross showed toward me knowing how well he took care of his truck.

Thankyou Ross bringing me along. Thankyou even more for your kindness and patience.

Love Jody

Jody Hostetler - September 15, 2014 at 07:35 PM

MP

“ *To the Family of Ross:
I was so saddened to hear of your dads passing. He was a great neighbor not only to me when I lived on Dodge Street but also to my parents John and Chrystal Miller, he always had time to talk and helped out when needed. Thanks Ross for serving our country! Rest in Peace my dear friend.*

*Ross: Gone from our sight
But not from our memories
Gone from our touch
But not gone from our hearts.*

*Praying that you all find comfort and strength during this time.
Sending hugs and love.*

*Mary Ann Robson Pyatt and Mike
Casper Wyoming*

Mary Ann Pyatt - September 15, 2014 at 12:45 PM

JK

“ *I would like to say just one more thank you to a proud Veteran, a son, husband, father, grandpa, brother, uncle, friend and neighbor and Ross the Irish lady across the street would have said May You Be a Half Hour In Heaven Before The Devil Knows Your dead. A life well lived Ross Go In Peace.*

Jan Koester - September 15, 2014 at 11:07 AM

MF

“ *MDU Family lit a candle in memory of Gordon Ross Schlabach*



MDU family - September 15, 2014 at 10:32 AM

MF

We all will miss you Ross rest in peace friend.

MDU family - September 15, 2014 at 10:33 AM

BW

“ *Tami & all of the Schlabach family: When those we love die so suddenly, it seems so hard to understand and come to the reality that they will no longer be with us here on this earth. We pray that God will be with you and give you the strength that you need to get through this difficult time. Your mom and dad will live on in your hearts and memories forever. You will be reunited with them in heaven!*
Our deepest sympathy,
Bill & Teresa Wade

Bill & Teresa Wade - September 15, 2014 at 09:28 AM

DS

“ *Donna And Jim Stanfill lit a candle in memory of Gordon Ross Schlabach*



Donna and Jim Stanfill - September 14, 2014 at 10:17 PM

CS

“ Jim and I send our heart-felt condolences to the Schlabach family! What a great man Ross was...We knew them when they first moved to Glendive and lived on the 1200 block of Kendrick, just a few houses from us. One thing you could see right away was how much they loved and cherished each other and then their wonderful kids! They were salt-of-the-earth kind of people and will be missed!.....I'm happy they are together now....

Carol Swanson - September 14, 2014 at 04:12 PM



“ Heartwarming Thoughts Boston Fern was purchased for the family of Gordon Ross Schlabach.



September 14, 2014 at 12:54 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gordon Ross Schlabach.



September 14, 2014 at 11:18 AM

DZ

“ *Schlabach family and extended family, Our hearts and prayers are with you all. Ross will truly be missed by the community of Glendive. He is rejoicing with Shirley in heaven and that makes us smile. Take care, be strong and God Bless.*
Don and Penny



Don and Penny Zimmerman - September 14, 2014 at 08:19 AM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Gordon Ross Schlabach.*



September 13, 2014 at 10:05 PM

JM

“ *What a good picture of Ross! I don't really know what to share. It doesn't seem real that Ross and Shirley could both be gone. Happy to know they are together in Heaven in perfect health but feel so bad for Mike, Tami, & Scot and all your children. My heart hurts for you. We have so many fun memories of time spent with Ross & Shirley and you kids when Jodi & Justin were still young and here at home. Then when you all grew up and went different directions and you all gave us grandkids we hardly ever got together. I feel sad we didn't make a better effort. But anyway we always had fun when you came to the farm hunting or sledding or almost tipping over backwards in your orange jeep. The thought still makes my stomach sick! The good Lord had to be watching over us. And we loved coming to your house in Glendive. It was always a treat to see what decorations Shirley had up or see what Ross had made with wood. He made Jodi such a nice little play cupboard when she was little. He made Justin the neatest folding corral, and us a stool that flips up into a ladder. We still have them all and they have been well used. We love the memories and pray you all can find joy in all your wonderful memories, even at this sad time. We love you all. May our God bless you and give you strength and comfort.*

Jeanne Meissner - September 13, 2014 at 09:46 PM

JH

“ *Mike, Tami, & Scott Schlabach & families*

Our hearts are heavy as we think of each of you and your families having lost a loving father so soon after your beautiful mom. What does a person say, what does a person do at a time like this? All we know is to express how deeply sorry we are for your great loss and to encourage you with God's word.

Psalm 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Psalm 33:22

Let your unfailing love surround us, Lord, for our hope is in you alone.

We love you and are praying for you all as you gather together and make arrangements. Praying God's strength and comfort and peace be surrounding you all and guiding you through this most difficult time.

In loving memory of your father Ross...

*All our love to you and your families,
James and Jodi Haynie and family*

James and Jodi Haynie - September 13, 2014 at 09:18 PM

JM

“ Many times in life, well maybe not so often, we are privileged to have God'S intervention in our lives. Ross introduced himself to me in Ft. Lewis Washington, simply stating, "he heard my name and it sounded familiar as he had been working in Glendive for MDU". That cemented a life long friendship that took us to Ft Polk La. And then on to an all expense paid trip to Vietnam. Post Army found us back in Montana were our families grew and shared countless tough times but also so many good times. Ross became our gate man, sorting cattle and sheep at various events. As our children learned their way in life, we always spoke of their opportunities that laid before them. As Shirley is missed by my family, my loss of Ross in my life, ends a friendship that some how will never be absent from my core being, nor from my family as well.

Jerry Meissner - September 13, 2014 at 06:38 PM

LM

“ Please know that we keep your family in our prayers as you go through this difficult time. We have great baseball memories of both Ross and Shirley and smile when we think about them. RIP our friends. Sincerely, Gene & Leslie Micheletto



leslie micheletto - September 13, 2014 at 05:29 PM

SB

Our condolences to Ross's family. We met Ross while bow shooting up at the range and always enjoyed our visits with him. He was a good and true man and will be greatly missed in the community.
Justin and Shana Baisch

Shana Baisch - October 02, 2014 at 02:34 PM