

Hilary Michael Hopfauf III

August 9, 1947 - March 19, 2024

Hilary Michael Hopfauf, age 76, of Glendive, Montana, passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at the Billings Clinic Hospital.

Hilary was born August 9, 1947 to Hilary Hopfauf, Jr. and Josephine (Safratowich) Hopfauf in Dickinson, North Dakota. He attended St. Joseph's Grade School and Trinity High School, graduating with the class of 1965. On July 8, 1968, Hilary married his high school sweetheart, Jeanette (Jean) Jablonsky. To this union, they were blessed with two children: Paul and Pamela.

After high school, he served in the North Dakota National Guard Unit for six years. In 1971, he received a B.S. Degree in Education from Dickinson State College. From 1971 to 1977 Hilary taught Earth Science and World Geography at the Junior High School in Glasgow, Montana. In 1977, he received a Masters of Education Degree from the University of Montana and became the Vice Principal and Athletic Director (1977-1979) at the Baker, Montana High School. In 1979, Hilary moved his family to Glendive, where he accepted the Vice Principal position from 1979-1984 at Dawson County High School (DCHS). From 1984-1996, he served as Principal at DCHS. During this tenure, Hilary became very involved with the Montana High School Association, as President of the Eastern Class A Division; he served as President of Montana Association of Secondary School Principals and President of the School Administrators of Montana. In 1991, he was honored as the Montana State Principal of the Year. Hilary retired from education in

1996.

A strong belief in hard work and fair treatment of students, co-workers and community members were hallmarks of his life. He repeatedly stated that “as educators, if you don’t like kids, you are in the wrong line of work.” Being a people-person, he always sought the good in others. He treasured the many times former students would stop to chat about their time in school. He was proud to be a Dawson County Red Devil and was present at most school events (often standing with his arms crossed, holding the wall up in the gymnasium)!

It is not a coincidence that Hilary passed away on the feast day of St. Joseph. His life emulated St. Joseph in so many ways including his deep faith, selflessness to community, devotion to family, not to mention his talent and love for woodworking. His strong desire to give back to one’s community never wavered. He truly believed in the importance of faith, family, friends, and community. He was a member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, serving on the Sacred Heart School Board, Church Finance Council, and was privileged to be a Eucharistic Minister and administered to the home-bound for several years.

Over the years, he immersed himself on many committees, some of which included: youth and foster care, scholarship review, community intervention fund-raising, ABC Baseball Program, Migrant Children Education Program, Crime Stoppers Board, County Water Associations, he was a long-time member of Glendive Lions Club, Elks Lodge, Eastern Montana Community Concert Association, and served on the Glendive Medical Center Board from 1994-2004. Hilary was a lifelong car enthusiast from five years old when he removed all the door handles, chrome trim and began wet sanding his father’s brand-new car so he could change the paint color. Later in life buying, fixing, rebuilding and reselling countless vehicles (often more than once). He obtained his driver’s license at the age of 14 proceeding to wreck at least one car per year until he turned 17. He learned auto repair and bodywork from his father making him fix his own cars. He was also a member of the Badlands

Drifters Car Club, enjoying his own collector cars, and treasuring many friendships.

Hilary purchased the former Standard Oil Gasoline Station on Main Street in Glendive, remodeling and operating it as Hop's Auto Sales & Cellular. In later years, changing the business to Hop's Lube & Tire Exchange, until his second retirement in 2011. This past summer, he shared a list with his family of over 30 different jobs he had from the first day he was eligible to work. He earned the reputation of being able to fix most anything!

His greatest pride and joy were his grandchildren and spending time with them and attending their activities. He especially loved to cook in his outdoor kitchen for gatherings and community events. He was a talented woodworker, sharing his creations with family and friends, building numerous pieces of furniture and new kitchen cabinets for Jean, taking grandchildren on camping trips, which included mystery dinners and backwards parties, starting with dessert first! He loved spending time in Makoshika State Park with Jean and dog, Toby.

Hilary is survived by his wife, Jeanette of 55 years, children: Paul (Amy) Hopfauf and their children Michael and Alex; Pamela (Calvin) Dean and their children Christopher and Elizabeth; two brothers Tom (Alesia) Hopfauf of Dickinson, North Dakota and Patrick (Sandee) Hopfauf of Missoula, Montana; Sisters-In-Law and Brothers-In-Law, Debbie and Arthur Arakawa and Ed and Dennel Niezgod; many nieces and nephews; his special Italian family Giovanna (Francesco) DeSeta and their children, Anna and Francesca.

A Rosary service will be held at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:00 AM on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. Rite of Committal will follow in the Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks consideration of memorials to the

Hilary M. Hopfauf Memorial Educational, Career and Technical Scholarship fund.

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

Cemetery Details

Dawson County Cemetery

Corner of North Sargent Ave. and East Allard
Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Previous Events

Rosary Service

APR 3. 7:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 4. 10:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
316 West Benham Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall

DS

“ *Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Denise Stoddart - May 14, 2024 at 01:41 PM

KS

“ *Dear Jean, Pam, Amy, and Families~ I am very saddened to read that your beloved loved one has passed. Thank you for creating such a memorable, thoughtful, and sensitive obituary for him! It is one of the nicest tributes I have read in a while. Hilary lived an exemplary life and left everyone an example of how to put God, faith, and family as priorities in a life well-lived. Thank you for including the details about St. Joseph, our patron saint of families, fathers, and workers--all of which Hilary excelled at! I'm thinking of all of you and sending my love, condolences, and prayers for your peace and consolation today and in the coming days. May the Holy Spirit tenderly guide you along this new path. "Eternal rest grant unto him O' Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him." With my deepest sympathy, Kim Stanton*

Kim Stanton - April 24, 2024 at 08:02 PM

AS

“ *You are all in my thoughts and prayers!*



Anita Spencer - April 02, 2024 at 05:28 PM

SM

“ *Shane Amber McPherson lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Shane & Amber McPherson - April 02, 2024 at 08:51 AM

JM

“ *Jay Miller lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Jay Miller - April 01, 2024 at 09:44 AM

LL

“ *Lana Safratowich and Sherlene Lambert purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Hilary Michael Hopfauf III.*



Lana Safratowich and Sherlene Lambert - March 28, 2024 at 10:44 PM

LL

“ *Lana Safratowich and Sherlene Lambert planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hilary Michael Hopfauf III.*

Lana Safratowich and Sherlene Lambert - March 28, 2024 at 10:44 PM

GS

“ *Condolences to Jean, Paul, Pam and family
I was on the faculty at DCHS when Hilary was V.P. and Principal.
There are so many memories. I recall the day our third son Tom
was born. Hilary came down to my classroom until a sub could
come so that I could be with Terry on that special day. That was
forty-eight years ago yet it seems like yesterday.
God be with you at this time, George Skerritt*

George Skerritt - March 28, 2024 at 12:50 PM

KW

*I served on the sacred heart school board with Hilary and have stories
to tell! Kay wynne! He was a great friend and a great Christian!*

kay wynne - April 02, 2024 at 11:01 PM

S1

“ *Mr. Hopfuaf was wonderfully tolerant of me in high school at DCHS.
I was sent to his office a few times for attitude problems or skipping
school and each time he was like, "Well, Doty, how do we make this
work?"*

*And so we came to a solution that made both of us happy. Or at
least kept me out of his office.*

*To this day, I regret writing an article in the school newspaper that
referred to him as, "The man who is too tall for his hair." Cheap shot
for a man who had early balding.*

All of us in the Class of 1980 respected him.

SABO 1980 - March 26, 2024 at 10:52 PM

JB

“ *Jim Alice Bachmeier lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Jim and Alice Bachmeier - March 26, 2024 at 08:07 PM

CP

“ *Pam and family, condolences to all of you also! Cherish all the fond memories you had with Hilary. He lived life to the fullest.*

Cherise Patterson - March 26, 2024 at 05:17 PM

WB

“ *We are sorry to hear of H'S passing. H was a asset to Highland Park Water, and a great neighbor. We enjoyed working with him. Our thoughts are with you all. Warren and Kathy*

Warren broeder - March 26, 2024 at 01:45 PM

SF

“ *Jean, Paul and family, and Pam and family:
We are so sorry to hear of Hilary's passing! He was such a good man and educator, and always tried to help everyone in need. He was always so kind, so considerate, and so positive! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time.
Sandra and Paul Fasting*

Sandra and Paul Fasting - March 26, 2024 at 01:04 PM

JS

“ *Jacky Mike Boje Saur sent a virtual gift in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Jacky & Mike Boje Saur - March 26, 2024 at 08:16 AM

MA

“ *My sincere condolences to Jean, Paul, Pam and families. H was a one-of-a-kind great man, so involved with his family, faith, and community. He will be missed. Sending love and prayers, ml*

Mary Ayre - March 26, 2024 at 12:20 AM

DS

“ *I have fond memories of Hilary at DCHS! He was a great leader and I always enjoyed seeing him in Glendive after his retirement. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers 🙏*

Deb Schwartz - March 25, 2024 at 07:36 PM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hilary Michael Hopfauf III.*



March 25, 2024 at 07:27 PM

TT

“ Tracy, Nichole, Braden and Keaton Tooz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Hilary Michael Hopfauf III.

Tracy, Nichole, Braden and Keaton Tooz - March 25, 2024 at 07:27 PM

PV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Jean, Paul, Pam and families at this difficult time. Hilary was a great neighbor, we always enjoyed our visits.



Pete and Deb Vogel - March 25, 2024 at 07:24 PM

GT

“ Les and I bought a 1/2 ton 1996 Dodge Ram from Hilary (which I still have!). Buying it from him was a fun time! Between him and Les it was one of the funniest times with lots of laughter! He was one in a million and will be missed by so many people.

Gina Tipton - March 25, 2024 at 03:08 PM

MS

“ Hopfauf family, Kathy and I were so sorry to hear about Hilary. Always enjoyed visiting with him when we were back in Glendive. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Kathy and Mel Sampson



Mel and Kathy Sampson - March 25, 2024 at 12:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Hilary Michael Hopfauf III.*



March 25, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ *Deb Roeslein sent a virtual gift in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Deb Roeslein - March 24, 2024 at 05:09 PM



“ *Jean and family, I'm sorry for your loss. Hilary was always kind gentle man. He will be missed by many. May God's comfort and grace be with you.*

Deb Roeslein - March 24, 2024 at 05:07 PM



“ *Laura Sevier lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Laura Sevier - March 24, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ Jean and Family,
I enjoyed the times with Hilary at Lion's meeting and events. He was a thoughtful, generous, kind man - one who loved our community and worked to make it a better place. He will be missed.
Patti and Bill Raisl

Patti Raisl - March 24, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ Lindsay Sadorf lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf



Lindsay Sadorf - March 24, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ My very deepest sympathy Jean to you and your family, he was a very great guy, always friendly and very helpful to everyone! He will be greatly missed. Sending prayers your way.

Rita Van Dusen - March 23, 2024 at 05:03 PM



“ Butch Gerrie Warner lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf



Butch and Gerrie Warner - March 23, 2024 at 03:19 PM

AF

“ *Ann Frazer lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Ann Frazer - March 23, 2024 at 01:41 PM

RB

“ *Hilary was the principal of DCHS when my girls were in high school. He was always kind, fair and a truly good man as well s a good principal. My deepest condolences Jean, to you and your family.*

Rosemary Baldwin - March 23, 2024 at 11:07 AM



“ *I'm not sure what to say aside from I'm so sorry. Jean, it always warmed my heart to run into you guys. I admire the dynamic you have with each other, and how much kindness just radiates. Rest easy Happy Hoppy..*

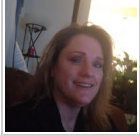


Heather Frank - March 23, 2024 at 09:50 AM

JH

“ *Our condolences prayers for your loss of Hillary. May he rest in peace.*

John + MaryAnn Hecker - March 22, 2024 at 10:37 PM



“ *Linda Woodward lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Linda Woodward - March 22, 2024 at 10:18 PM

SC

“ *Jean and family, so sorry to hear about Hilary's passing. Cherish the memories.*

Sherry and Arvid Corneliusen - March 22, 2024 at 08:25 PM

KN

“ *Thoughts & prayers to you all.*

Kathy Nicholson - March 22, 2024 at 06:10 PM

KN

“ *Kathy Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Kathy Nicholson - March 22, 2024 at 06:08 PM

GS

“ *So sorry to hear about Hillary's passing. Thoughts and prayers are with you. Gary and Shirley Semerad*

Gary Semerad - March 22, 2024 at 05:50 PM

BK

“ *Bonita Keel lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Bonita Keel - March 22, 2024 at 04:38 PM

CP

“ *Jean, Amy, Paul & family, condolences. Hilary will surely be missed by many. Cherish the many fond memories of trips, car shows, outings, family gatherings etc.*

Cherise Patterson - March 22, 2024 at 12:22 PM

KP

“ *Thoughts and prayers to everyone! He was a kindhearted man who cared about everyone.*



Kelly and Ginger Pulse - March 22, 2024 at 10:39 AM

NM

“ *Nancy Mischel-Keller lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Nancy Mischel-Keller - March 22, 2024 at 10:25 AM

RO

“ Ray Mary Ann O'Donnell lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf



Ray and Mary Ann O'Donnell - March 22, 2024 at 10:24 AM

DL

“ We are so sorry to hear of Hilary's passing. What an honorable man he was. Our thoughts are with Jean and family at this difficult time



Deb & Dave Linn

Deb & Dave Linn - March 22, 2024 at 08:59 AM

TD

“ Jean, Pam, Paul and family~I'm so sorry for your loss of Hilary. He was a really great guy and always had a smile on his face. My thoughts and prayers are with you. RIP Hilary!



Tammy Dey - March 22, 2024 at 12:24 AM

PL

“ We were neighbors they got all our snow and leaves every year

Pat and Kathy Lifo - March 21, 2024 at 11:36 PM

SA

“ *Sandra lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Sandra - March 21, 2024 at 11:31 PM

PL

“ *So sorry to hear about Hillary, our deepest sympathy Pat and Karhy*

Pat and Kathy Lifo - March 21, 2024 at 11:31 PM

SA

“ *Have known the Hopfauf family for many, many years. Hilary was a great man. Always a smile and a twinkle in his eye. Blessing to all the family on their loss.*

Sandra - March 21, 2024 at 11:31 PM

MM

“ *Marls McCormick lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Marls McCormick - March 21, 2024 at 10:37 PM

DD

“ *Dan Donna Dobson lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Dan and Donna Dobson - March 21, 2024 at 10:06 PM

DA

“ *DARREL DENISE ALBERTS lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



DARREL & DENISE ALBERTS - March 21, 2024 at 04:34 PM

RB

“ *Richard Karen Berg lit a candle in memory of Hilary Hopfauf*



Richard and Karen Berg - March 21, 2024 at 04:26 PM

MK

“ *I have nothing but good memories of Mr. Hopfauf from being our principal at the high school to being an adult and visiting with him. He was a good man and will truly be missed. Pam, Paul and family you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I am so very sorry for your loss.*

Melissa Kwasney - March 21, 2024 at 04:19 PM

AA

“ Hilary was my boss at DCHS for many years. He always worked to create a compassionate community. We retired the same year and always enjoyed touching base with each other to see how retirement was treating us. He was a kind man.

Avis Anderson - March 21, 2024 at 04:06 PM

SF

*Jean, Paul and family, and Pam and family:
We are so sorry to hear of Hilary's passing! He was such a good man and educator, and always tried to help everyone in need. He was always so kind, considerate, and so positive! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time.
Sandra and Paul Fasting*

Sandra and Paul Fasting - March 26, 2024 at 11:48 AM

EM

Jean, I am so sorry for your family's loss. You definitely came across as a dynamic duo, even if just taking tickets at the concerts!

One time when Hillary had the Quick Lube, I dropped off my older Subaru for an oil change and quick "look-see/once over" before embarking on a road trip. When I picked it up, he took me over, popped the hood and proceeded to give me a 101 lesson in belts, fluid lines etc., etc. Nice touch...but that's the kind of guy he was.

Elaine Marty

Edith Elaine Marty - March 28, 2024 at 03:56 PM

MK

Jean and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Hilary was a wonderful man and a talented administrator.

Myrna Kintz - April 07, 2024 at 03:10 PM