



Jesse Lee Howard

October 3, 1936 - February 22, 2016

Jesse Lee Howard, age 79, of Wibaux, Montana passed away Monday, February 22, 2016 at his home. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, February 26, 2016 at the Wibaux County Fairgrounds with Reverend Larry Phalen officiating. Silha Funeral Home of Wibaux has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Jess was born on October 3, 1936 in Merced, California to Edmund and Violette (Jones) Howard. After growing up and graduating in California, he joined the Army before he turned eighteen and spent the next two years stationed in Hawaii.

Jess worked odd jobs and rodeoed with many great friends, including his brother Pat, over the next several years. Somehow he made his way to Montana, where he met and later married Judy Austby on June 8, 1963. Their son Jeff was born the following year in July and Jess liked to joke that they “were married in June and Jeff was born in July”.

In 1970, Jess became the NRCA Championship Saddle Bronc Rider, winning a saddle and his favorite buckle. In 1971, his daughter Jody was born and Jess began an almost thirty five year horseshoeing career. In 1975, they moved to Fallon, Nevada where he shod horses and drove Judy, Jeff and Jody to many, many rodeos, team roping’s and barrel races! He especially appreciated the cowboy church services and friendships created during the high school rodeos. Jess lived and gathered friends in California, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, New Mexico and Nevada over the years.

In 1994, Jess and Judy moved closer to family in Montana and North Dakota. Jess began to overcome his lifelong stage fright in order to share his cowboy poetry, singing and guitar skills. Many more great friendships were created during these travels and gatherings.

Jess is now drinking coffee and visiting with many friends in Heaven. He was fond of saying he was “down to just two sins, but one of them was lying”!

Jess was preceded in death by his parents, Edmund and Violette and one brother.

Jess is survived by his wife, Judy Howard of Wibaux; his daughter, Jody (Rocky) Burman of Miles City, Montana; his son, Jeff (DeAnn) Howard of Malta, Montana; five grandchildren, Raelynn Howard, Kaycee Howard, Kayla Howard, Jesse Burman and Jamie Burman; two sisters and two brothers.

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

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **26**. 2:00 PM (MT)

Wibaux County Fairgrounds
Wibaux, MT

Tribute Wall



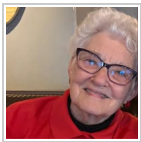
“ *Jesse Lee Howard*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *My name is Brenda Roller and I work at Superpumper in Belfield and had the pleasure of getting to know Jesse when he would come in for coffee. That's when he drove truck for Hamm and Phillips. He was a wonderful person, kind of shy but a great guy. I am so very sorry for your lose. My prayers are for you and your family.*

Brenda Roller - March 05, 2016 at 07:49 PM



“ *Cannot imagine the Dakota Cowboy Poetry Gathering without him. Deep Sympathy from Dale and Sandie Nystrom, New Rockford ND*

Sandra Nystrom - February 29, 2016 at 02:13 PM



“ *I had the privilege of working with Jess, one of the most genuine and honest people I've known. His humor brought joy to many, Thanks Jess, RIP*

Shane and Janelle Biggs

Shane Biggs - February 26, 2016 at 12:12 PM

JO

“ *The Cowboy rode a moonbeam,
To a distant star last night,
His chaps and spurs were quiet,
As he galloped to the light.*

*Roundup time was over,
He knew that time would come;
When cowboys ride that last big ride,
Beyond the shining sun.*

*He loved his wife and children,
In his heart he said good-bye;
Some say his life is over,
They know he is nearby.*

*His friends that went before him,
Are there to lead the way;
They tell him how much they've missed him,
Rejoicing on this day.*

*Don't cry for this old cowboy,
He's passed the final test,
The Big Boss called him home tonight,
To find his final rest.*

Jen & Dey Obrigewitch - February 25, 2016 at 10:02 PM

JW

“ We will always remember Jesse when Jody would come to visit Fern and Ray on the Mizpah - Powder River and our daughter was always invited up to play with her and Gina and Tina. Many stories were told on those short visits

Jim and Ann Willson

Jim and Ann Willson - February 25, 2016 at 07:56 PM

JN

“ Jim And Ev Neary lit a candle in memory of Jesse Lee Howard



Jim and Ev Neary - February 25, 2016 at 05:19 PM

JN

We had the pleasure and honor of knowing and working with Jess. He was a true gentleman and a great cowboy. He was a joy to work with and really fun to be around.

Jim and Ev Neary - February 25, 2016 at 05:21 PM

GH

“ Judy, Jody, Jeff and families: Our hearts go out to you on your great loss. We will sorely miss Jess.

Jess - maybe the Boss of your new Range Above will issue you a good mount with a little fire cuz you are forked enough to handle it. One of these autumns, I will cut your trail and we can chew the fat over a mug of coffee. Adios good friend. George

George & Sydney Hegge - February 25, 2016 at 12:46 PM

RD

“ *Jesse was the epitome of a true gentleman. He will be greatly missed!* ”

Robert Dennis - February 24, 2016 at 12:36 PM

TD

“ *Taffy & Danny purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Jesse Lee Howard.* ”



Taffy & Danny - February 24, 2016 at 11:49 AM

JP

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Jess for a couple of years at Hamm & Phillips. Despite the 45 year age gap I consider him to be one of my best friends. I enjoyed listening to his stories, visiting and drinking coffee with him after work in his apartment at the converted "old folks home" as he called it in Belfield. Des and I are deeply saddened to hear he has passed, but will remember him forever. Judy and family you are in our thoughts and prayers.* ”

Josh & Des Paul

Josh Paul - February 24, 2016 at 11:00 AM

CH

“ *Carol Hanson lit a candle in memory of Jesse Lee Howard* ”



Carol Hanson - February 23, 2016 at 02:29 PM

RB

“ Jesse's dry sense of humor and his soft-spoken way of presenting his poetry has brought much laughter to audiences throughout the Cowboy Poetry world. He performed in many prestigious events, I knew him quite well through my brother Bob, and their mutual love for cowboy poetry and song. I had the privilege of traveling to Elko, Nevada, to hear both Jesse and Bob perform. Several years ago Jesse rode with us to Valentine, Nebraska, another famous annual cowboy poetry gathering. What fun and laughs we had! He was just an all-around great person to know and love. My prayers and condolences go out to his family. He will be greatly missed in the cowboy poetry realm, as well as by family and by the friends he made wherever he went. Ruth (Petermann) Bacon

Ruth Bacon - February 22, 2016 at 09:17 PM

JD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jeri Dobrowski - February 22, 2016 at 08:40 PM