



Keith LeRoy Lewis

May 25, 1934 - May 24, 2016

Keith LeRoy Lewis, age 81, of Wolf Point, Montana died peacefully on Tuesday May 24, 2016 at Faith Lutheran Home in Wolf Point. Visitation will be held from 9:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive, Montana. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. at the Silha Funeral Home with Jeff Harada officiating. Interment will follow in Dawson County Cemetery in Glendive.

Keith was born May 25, 1934 at his grandparents' house in Glendive to John K. Lewis and Mary Alice (Buttelman) Lewis. He grew up at the 52 Ranch south of Lindsay, Montana on Bad Route Creek, home of his grandfather, John G. (Grace) Buttelman and great uncle, Nicholas H. (Mary) Buttelman. Four generations have lived on the ranch since it was founded in 1889. He attended elementary school at a nearby rural schoolhouse up until 8th grade. He graduated from Dawson County High School in Glendive in 1952. He then went on to graduate from Rocky Mountain College in 1957 with a Major in Physical Education and minors in Mathematics as well as in Social Studies. While at Rocky Mountain College he played football and was a member of the 1955 Hall of Fame team.

He began his teaching career at Bainville High School in Bainville, MT from 1957 to 1959 where he also began his coaching career. During his time in Bainville he met and married Leona Joyce Hinz in 1960. He then moved to Wolf Point to teach Mathematics and coach football, basketball, track and cross country. He coached football until 1962. He was Head Track Coach from

1962 to 1975 winning 3 divisional titles and captured a 2nd place title at State in 1968. From 1965-1972 he coached cross country with a 4th place finish at state in 1970. He was assistant coach for many basketball seasons, including the 1968 "Big 32" state champion Wolves. From 1978-1980 he was Head Basketball Coach with a 3rd place finish at state in 1979. During the summers he would help out on the family ranch where he grew up. He received his Master's in Mathematics from Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan in 1970. Keith taught school for a total of 31 years, retiring in 1988 from Wolf Point High School.

Prior to retiring from teaching he returned to his roots purchasing a ranch south of Poplar, Montana, which was often referred to as the "Big G" or Big Gamble ranch. He also purchased ranches south of Wolf Point near Red Water River and another west of Wolf Point. Keith achieved the perfect balance between teaching/coaching and farming/ranching, often joking about the need to keep teaching so he could support his "other job." Keith was perhaps most widely known for wearing boots and a straw or felt cowboy hat, and as his family will remember him most, walking in the corrals with his sorting stick working his cattle. In 2000 after the passing of his brother George Lewis he took over operations of the family ranch on Bad Route Creek (52 Ranch). Keith was also a member of the Montana Stockgrowers Association. He loved ranching and cattle and was at his happiest when doing so. He also had many friends in the cattle business that he truly enjoyed being with. Survivors include his former wife Leona Lewis, of Wolf Point; his sister, Jean Gubser of Billings, Montana; his son Craig Lewis and his wife Jane and their children Nick and Joe of Billings, MT; his daughter Ann Lebsock and her husband Jeffrey, and their children Paige, Brian, Nathan, Noelle, Daniel, and Mark, of Frenchtown, MT along with 12 great-grandchildren; His daughter Kristi Lepper and former husband Bob and her children Casee and Owen of Wolf Point; his son Kirk Lewis of Devils Lake, North Dakota; his nephew John C. Koch and his children John and Gracie of Helena, Montana; his niece Kathrine Murphy and her husband Greg and their children Megan, Brian, and

Allison of Billings; several cousins and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother George Lewis and sister Florence Mae Lewis.

Remembrances and condolences may 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

Visitation

JUN 2. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM (MT)

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

Service

JUN 2. 2:00 PM (MT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Keith LeRoy Lewis*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *Mr. Lewis was a good man who believed in me. He was strict, funny, and is one of the reasons I am where I am. His intelligence and thoughtfulness in my hard times helped me in more ways than he knew. Rest in Peace, my teacher. I will never forget you.*

Misty Abella - December 01, 2019 at 10:52 PM



“ *good night my father...*

Kirk - February 07, 2017 at 11:37 AM



“ *"Mr. Lewis" is one of the reasons I succeeded in life. He was my high school teacher in Algebra and my basketball and track coach. I excelled in all of these because of his ability to teach me the basics. Those successes brought confidence and a belief in myself. He was a warm, fatherly figure during those years when I didn't have one. RIP, Mr. Lewis. I wish I had told you these things before you went to the other side :(*

Wes Stevenson - July 14, 2016 at 09:19 PM

MM

“ *Mauri and Judy Munson purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Keith LeRoy Lewis.*



Mauri and Judy Munson - May 31, 2016 at 08:41 PM

GC

“ *Many great memories of Keith and his Iowa connection...many years he sent his Angus cattle to the bleil-chapman sale barn at Kingsley,ia and had many great stories and meals with our family and the freinds he had made with the local farmers who bought and fed his cattle ...he was a great freinds of my dad...bud chapman...and his memory is with our whole family...Gary and Susan chapman and my immediate family...Kelly... Jeannie and Buddie Ann....*

Gary chapman - May 31, 2016 at 11:23 AM

GC

“ *Many memories of Keith and his trips to Iowa to sell his good black cattle at the bleil-chapman sale barn in Kingsley and moville..his great company at evening meals with the farmers who fed his cattle and the stories he shared with his Iowa friend s...he and my dad were great freinds and are most likely telling stories again...our condolences...Gary and Susan chapman ...Kelly buddie and Jeannie...and the whole crew....*

Gary chapman - May 31, 2016 at 08:07 AM

LA

“ RIP Keith (aka Mr. Lewis) Many memories of sports and classes in my family. You will be missed and celebrated!

Laurie Anderson

Laurie Anderson - May 27, 2016 at 08:12 PM

CB

“ I remember visiting with Keith one afternoon out at the farm. Arnold was busy helping Leona on the computer so Keith and I were alone in the living room. We had a very nice visit but the one thing that I remember most of all was when he said being outside with nature was his idea of being in church. He said he really enjoyed observing the birds and animals. Those were my thoughts exactly. Carol Barr

Carol Barr - May 27, 2016 at 04:07 PM

KD

“ RIP Mr. Lewis. He was one of my favorite instructor's in school. Thoughts and prayers to Leona, Kristie and the rest of Keith's family.

Kathy Doornek
Wolf Point, MT

Kathy Doornek - May 27, 2016 at 07:05 AM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Keith LeRoy Lewis.



May 26, 2016 at 09:47 AM