



Peter Erland Bakken

May 5, 1923 - February 25, 2015

Peter "Pete" Erland Bakken, age 91, of Glendive, Montana passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the Banner Gateway Hospital in Gilbert, Arizona. Visitation will be held from 1:00 P.M. until 5:00 P.M. and from 6:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. A funeral service will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive with Pastor Stan Hoobing officiating. Interment with military honors will follow in Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Pete was born on May 5, 1923 in Norway, a son of Erland and Hannah Bakken. He came to America with his mother in 1925 joining his father who was working a ranch south of Wibaux, Montana for an uncle. Pete attended elementary school in Prairie County near Terry, Montana for the first three years while his father worked on the railroad at Blatchford, Montana near Terry. Later his parents moved to Wibaux on a ranch south of Wibaux. Pete attended grade schools in rural Wibaux County until finishing the eighth grade. His high school years were spent at the Wibaux County High School graduating in 1941. When World War II broke out he was working on a ranch south of Wibaux and enlisted in the Army just after Pearl Harbor was attacked. He spent four years in the Army with three and a half years spent in the European Theater until October of 1945 when he was discharged. After his return from serving the Army he farmed south of Wibaux. Pete later decided to

work in the coal mines at Colstrip, Montana for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He decided this was not to be his life's work and later attended Eastern Montana College from which he graduated and became a teacher. While in college he met Pearl Sorsdahl who he married and remained married to for fifty years until Pearl passed away in 2000. Later Pete attended the University of Idaho and graduated with a Masters Degree in Administration. Pete became an administrator in Poplar, Montana and later in Ronan, Montana and spent twenty years as Principal of Washington Junior High School in Glendive. His wife Pearl had spent twenty years teaching in the elementary school in Glendive as well. Pete later married Stella Feisthamel. Pete was fortunate enough to meet her at a dance at the senior center.

During his teaching career in Glendive he was active in community affairs including President of local Kiwanis Club and President of the Glendive Toastmasters Club. He also taught Sunday school at Zion Lutheran Church for a number of years. In the education area he was a director of Elementary Principal Association of Montana and held a President position at the Eastern Montana M.E.A. convention for one session.

Pete was very proud to have served his country and was honored to have been a part of the Honor Flight that flew to Washington, D.C. in May of 2013. He was preceded in death by his parents, Erland and Hannah; five brothers, Erling, Arnold, Sigmund, Harold and Leif; one sister, Gudrun Zinsli; and his first wife, Pearl.

Pete is survived by a son, Terry (Martha) Bakken; three grandchildren, Ashley, Brett, and Brittney; four great-grandchildren, Riley, Brady, Evan, and Owen; his wife, Stella; three step-children, Bob Feisthamel, Marc Feisthamel and Debra Waters; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 1:00 PM - 5:00 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>

Visitation

MAR 4. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Service

MAR 5. 10:00 AM (MT)

Zion Lutheran Church
401 Riverview Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Peter Erland Bakken*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *When I was entering the 6th grade at Washington Grade School, in 1966 a bunch of us "new kids" all were in the band room and each grade was called to go to their respective new classrooms, Finally the principal called out "will all sixth grade pupils come forward" and with heart in my mouth, I met P.E. Bakken. I handed him my card, he took it but held it out (to read it I suppose) and I thought me was offering it back to me so I took it, and he immediately took it back. He was intimidating (to me) but man he was the principal to all principals. He was younger than my mother! Amazing!*

One time in 8th grade, I was walking down the hall to the gymnasium for Physical Ed class. all was quiet, then came the Christmas music behind me. "Here we come a gathering" I quick turned to look at what was going on and he had just turned on the loudspeakers, and the girls lining the hallway for the previous phys. ed. class to get finished laughed at my reaction. I didn't know he still lived in Glendive.

God rest his soul, a great man Eliese Hrubes

eliese hrubes - March 22, 2015 at 10:29 PM

LH

“ I so enjoyed coffee hour at Subway with Pete. He was a good man and a great principal He will be missed.

Larry Heimbuch

Larry Heimbuch - March 10, 2015 at 12:11 PM

BC

“ My condolences in the loss of your loved one. I too have been a long time school administrator for Glendive Schools as high school principal, and now retired, so I know what Pete had for a lifestyle. He was a great man, and I enjoyed visiting with him when I'd see him at coffee with the rest of the retiree's at Subway. He will certainly be missed.

Mr. Bruce Clausen

Bruce Clausen - March 09, 2015 at 05:22 PM

LF

“ Stella! My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.

Lorraine Freeman - March 09, 2015 at 10:52 AM

CW

“ I am so sorry for your loss Stella. I always enjoyed Mr. Bakken, he was a great principal back in the days. You're in my thoughts & prayers.

Carol Wolff - March 05, 2015 at 09:26 PM

DD

“ Sorry for your loss and he is a loss to our community! I ALWAYS admired him - what a wonderful principal and classy man!!!

Debi Delamater - March 05, 2015 at 03:39 PM

CP

“ SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT PETE. HE WILL CERTAINLY BE MISSED AT THE MORNING COFFEE GROUP. REMEMBERING HIM OVER THE MANY YEARS. CHERISH ALL THE FOND MEMORIES.

CHERISE PATTERSON - March 04, 2015 at 04:35 PM



“ Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Peter Erland Bakken.



March 03, 2015 at 11:15 PM

MK

“ I enjoyed our bridge games with the Bakkens and always knew what a respected principal Pete was. My sincere sympathy to Stella and Terry and their families.

Myrna Kintz - March 03, 2015 at 01:35 PM

AH

“ A very respected man and icon of Glendive.



Andy Huschka - March 02, 2015 at 08:17 PM

CM

“ *Pete was the principal when I was attending grade school and later as I taught Sp. Education there in the late sixties and early seventies. He was strict but always helpful. I always respected him. My condolences to Stella and Terry and their families.*
Correen Toepke Major, Sioux Falls, SD



Correen Major - March 02, 2015 at 01:25 PM