

Richard A. Simonton

July 7, 1944 - December 26, 2017

Richard "Dick" Simonton, age 73 of Glendive, Montana, passed away on Tuesday, December 26, 2017 at his home in Glendive. Visitation will be held from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Monday, January 1, 2018 at the Silha Funeral Home in Glendive. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Glendive with Father Francis Schreiber officiating. Rite of Committal will follow in the Dawson Memorial Cemetery in Glendive. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Dick was born on July 7, 1944 in Wahpeton, North Dakota to Arnold and Marion (Benroth) Simonton. As a young child the family lived in Hankinson, North Dakota before moving to Fargo, North Dakota, where Dick received his early education. Early on in life, Dick had decided to spend his life as a priest, so he moved to Richardton, North Dakota, where he received his high school education at Assumption Abbey and graduated in 1962; once Dick discovered girls, however, he decided to serve the people. He continued his education at Dawson Community College in Glendive for two years before transferring to North Dakota State University in Fargo where he received a Bachelor's of Science. After college, Dick still wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life so he enlisted in the Peace Corps and spent the next two years in Ghana, Africa. Upon his return to the United States, Dick was in Missoula, Montana and, on a whim, applied to the University of Montana School of Law and was accepted on-the-spot. Following his graduation, Dick moved to Glendive and

started working for McDonough and Cox law offices where he later became a partner. Dick also served as the Dawson County Attorney for several years and had his own law practice before being appointed the District 7 Judge in Dawson County. During this time he also worked on several cases with the Montana Supreme Court. Dick formally retired in July of 2017 after 19 years of service, but continued working until November 2017 to finish his cases.

Dick enjoyed working, dedicating his time to practicing law and serving the people of eastern Montana. He was an avid baseball fan, always cheering for the New York Yankees. Some of his fondest memories were traveling with family and friends to Whidbey Island in Washington state and the summer vacations that they took as a family, which included several judicial conferences (some of their favorites).

Dick was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Connie Carpani (survived by John) and Mary Kay Shaver; two brothers-in-law, Bob McLain and Arnie Ames.

Dick is survived by his former wife and dear friend, LaNette Simonton of Glendive; their two sons, Eric (Jessica) Simonton of Billings, Montana and Mark Simonton of Seattle, Washington; one brother, Jim (Karon) Simonton of Roosevelt, Utah; several in-laws; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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

Cemetery Details

Dawson Memorial Cemetery

2816 West Towne Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Home
221 North Meade Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 2. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Rite of Committal

JAN 2. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (MT)

Dawson Memorial Cemetery
2816 West Towne Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard A. Simonton*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *This breaks my heart. I always appreciated his kindness towards my family and myself. He was a special man and we were blessed to have known him. Coker/Duede family*

jessica (coker) duede - April 09, 2018 at 08:38 PM



“ *Dick was a friend. he appreciated the relics that i gave him and was interested in local history. i won't forget him. R.I.P.*

*Jim Burdette
East Helena, Mt*

jim burdette - January 06, 2018 at 12:39 PM



“ *Terry Knapp lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Simonton*



Terry Knapp - January 01, 2018 at 04:43 PM



“ *LaNette, Eric & Mark - you are in my thoughts & prayers today. Judge Simonton will be missed by everyone who knew him & whose lives he touched. So sorry for your loss.*

Diane Nelson & family - January 01, 2018 at 10:14 AM

BB

“ *I'm so sad of the news of the loss of this dear man. God Bless each of you. May peace and strength be with his whole family and all his loved ones. The world will miss you Dick as heaven celebrates you.*

belinda bunting - December 31, 2017 at 01:50 PM

BR

“ *LaNette, Eric, Jessica and Mark
So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
Brenda, Ian and Ragan*

Brenda Ray - December 31, 2017 at 11:33 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



December 31, 2017 at 11:27 AM

PH

“ *So sorry to hear of Dick's passing. Thinking of family, including my classmate Jim. (Mary Kay had been a good friend of mine, too)
Thoughts, love, and prayers.*

Patty (Rigg) Harrington - December 31, 2017 at 11:20 AM

JM


“ *So sorry to hear of Dick's passing. We were involved in one of his last cases and were very impressed with his thoroughness and compassion. We are so thankful that we had such a thoughtful and wise man hearing our case. Jim and all the Magalsky family*

Jim Magalsky - December 30, 2017 at 12:46 AM

NJ

Judge Simonton has joined his friends who passed before him. If there are stairs to climb I hope that his recently deceased friend Tom Hefly will meet Judge Simonton and guide Judge Simonton in the afterlife.

NJ - January 01, 2018 at 03:55 PM

 Terry Knapp

“ *I always remember Dick as a great defender of justice, and very awesome at what he was committed to. He used to do my Real Estate closings and I was asked to be in his election ads. He was a friend and Dawson co. Will truly miss his expertise! May he RIP!*



Terry Knapp - December 29, 2017 at 08:22 PM

MH

“ *LaNette, Eric and Mark, I am thinking of you and praying for strength for your family. Mona Humphrey*



Mona Humphrey - December 29, 2017 at 06:45 PM

MF

“ *McLarty & Haase Law Firm purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



McLarty & Haase Law Firm - December 29, 2017 at 12:44 PM

LT

“ *Lynette and family. We are so very sorry to hear of Dick's passing. He was a man of honor and fairness. He was there to help us during a troubling time and always had time to talk with us. He was one in a million and we will miss seeing him. Let us know if there is anything we can do.*
Les and Virginia Tipton



Les and Virginia Tipton - December 29, 2017 at 11:52 AM

GG

“ *I sorry to hear of Dick's passing. Dick spent a life time of service to the community. You will be missed Richard. Gary L. Gaub Prescott Valley AZ*

Gary L. gaub - December 29, 2017 at 09:32 AM

RB

“ *I was a classmate of Richards at Assumption Abbey. I wanted to pass on my condolences to his family and friends. He was an inspiration to me during our years in high school.*



Ronald Bujok - December 29, 2017 at 05:07 AM

DS

“ *Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Simonton*



Denise Stoddart - December 29, 2017 at 01:33 AM

LM

“ *Larry And Lyla Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Simonton*



Larry and Lyla Mitchell - December 29, 2017 at 01:17 AM

BS

“ *Bob & Jackie Schlicht lit a candle in memory of Richard A. Simonton*



Bob & Jackie Schlicht - December 28, 2017 at 07:00 PM

WS

“ *Watch East Staff purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



Watch East Staff - December 28, 2017 at 03:51 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



December 28, 2017 at 03:47 PM

Jo
Bain

“ *My deepest condolences to the family during this time,,, to Eric and Mark, I pray for comfort as you endure this loss...*

Jo Bain family

Jo Bain - December 28, 2017 at 03:31 PM

Paula
Saye

“ *I send my heartfelt sadness in your loss. Judge Simonton was one of the District Court Judges I enjoyed arguing a case before. He was fair; polite; and, obviously loved the law.*

My 25-year old son was killed on 8-8-17 in an auto accident, so I'm way too familiar with the sadness and grief to follow the death of a loved one. God bless all of you! Paula Saye, Absarokee, MT.

Paula Saye - December 28, 2017 at 01:46 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



December 28, 2017 at 10:27 AM

DB

“ *Our hearts are heavy sitting here remembering a great man and friend. A man of great integrity, kindness, and a passion for his job. He will be greatly missed in this community. Hugs and prayers to all his family and friends. Hold on to the memories. Heaven certainly gained a new angel. Dick you certainly earned your wings. RIP*

Dennis and Cindi Byron - December 28, 2017 at 10:15 AM

SS

Yes he will be missed by many.was a very wise an knowledgeable man.

Sue Schwindt - December 28, 2017 at 12:02 PM

KH

“ *Keith & Andy Huschka sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard A. Simonton*



Keith & Andy Huschka - December 27, 2017 at 10:02 PM

BT

“ *Simonton Family I'm so sorry to hear of your loss! He's no longer in pain and in a much better place. Cherish your Memories and Hold them close they will help get you through the difficult days ahead. He was a Truly Amazing Man!*
Becky (Chouinard) Tipton

Becky Tipton - December 27, 2017 at 07:23 PM

SH

“ *Scott W. Herring purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



Scott W. Herring - December 27, 2017 at 04:55 PM

TF

“ *The Fladmo Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Richard A. Simonton.*



The Fladmo Family - December 27, 2017 at 04:55 PM

TD

“ *Lanette and family- I'm sorry for your loss of Dick. He was a great guy and I'm honored to have known him through Law Enforcement. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Cherish all your memories as you will always have them. RIP Dick!*



Tammy Dey - December 27, 2017 at 04:21 PM

JD

*Lynette, Eric and Mark,
We are very saddened to hear this. Dick was an outstanding human being! We are all better people for knowing him. God Bless you all and have faith he is still with you now and always.
Joe, Lisa, Megan, Sarah and Matt Dow*

Joe Dow - December 28, 2017 at 09:19 AM