



Rick Donn Elhart

February 24, 1954 - February 12, 2026

It is with much sadness we announce that Rick Elhart of Glendive, Montana passed away on February 12th, 2026. On January 7th, he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. He was able to spend most of his final month at home, but in his last few days, he was under the care of the wonderful physicians and staff at the Glendive Medical Center.

Rick worked hard throughout his lifetime. In grade school, he began by selling seed packets and greeting cards door-to-door in his Grand Junction, Colorado neighborhood. He also helped to keep the floor tidy at a local barber shop as well as pumped gas and serviced vehicles at the local Texaco station. In his late teens, he worked on road construction crews and painted houses. He earned good money from these and was able to buy his first beloved champion yellow Labrador retriever "Frosty," a snazzy Camero, and his first motorcycle. Rick had a love of cars - he and his brother Steve were known as "the Camero Brothers" in High School! He also established his very own painting business: "Elhart's Custom Painting" which is how he paid for his college education. After college, he continued to be successful in his painting business and became very well known for his high integrity and quality workmanship.

Rick loved being outdoors and was an active Boy Scout. Growing up, he enjoyed hunting, fishing and exploring – especially with his younger brother.

Rick brought up his family with these same pastimes, and together they enjoyed many boating and camping trips, hiking, cutting firewood, making memories at the Oregon coast and sitting by the crackle of a Montana campfire under the stars. Throughout the years of adventures, at least one Labrador was always with the family. Rick had a dear love for his dogs!

At age 23, he met his wife Susan at a wine & cheese party put on by their local church. They were married inside that same church the following year. A few years later, they moved to Portland, Oregon, where Rick opened an employment agency and worked for Safeco and United Grocers Insurance Companies. They then began their new family: first with their yellow Labrador retriever "Willie" and then with daughters Kate & Penny.

Rick's career as an AAL/Thrivent Financial planner is where he really shined. All his life experiences, successes and failures taught him how to handle life's many challenges. This came through in his financial coaching for his clients. In fact, he considered his job more of a ministry and this was evident in how he advised his clients. His guidance will be a gift that keeps on giving for many generations to come. Rick lived generously, gave to God and helped his family and community in whatever capacity he was able.

Rick was knowledgeable about nearly everything. He could fix cars, do remodeling, make furniture, cut giant trees for firewood and repair just about anything. Rick was also very involved in church and community organizations. These included: Optimist Club, Kiwanis, church council president as well as other church boards, heading up fundraisers, presenting seminars and participating in men's Bible study groups. His leadership was very much appreciated, and he knew how to run meetings effectively and efficiently so that people could get back home to their families.

Rick is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan; daughter Kate (Jerem) Joyce

of Glendive, Montana, and daughter Penny (Nick) Leslie of Austin, Texas; grandchildren: Jadis, Audrey, Kian and Chloe; siblings: Linda (Jim) Bosley of White City, Oregon, and Steve (Sunnie) Elhart of Waldport, Oregon; numerous nieces and nephews; and lastly Rick's best furry pal, Chester, who misses him dearly.

Silha Funeral Home in Glendive and Anderson Stevenson Wilke & Retz Funeral Home of Helena have been entrusted with arrangements. There are two memorial services planned to honor and celebrate Rick's life. The first service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive, MT on Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 11 am with a luncheon to follow in the downstairs fellowship room. The second service will be on Friday, June 12, 2026 at 10am at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Helena, MT. Lunch will also be served after the service along with the opportunity to share some "Rick" stories that you all may have. We are looking forward to seeing both family & friends as we celebrate and honor Rick's life together.

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

Upcoming Events

Memorial Service

JUN 12. 10:00 AM (MT)

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church
3580 N Benton Ave
Helena, MT 59602

Lunch to follow.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 19. 11:00 AM (MT)

Zion Lutheran Church
401 Riverview Avenue
Glendive, MT 59330

Lunch to follow.

Tribute Wall

TL

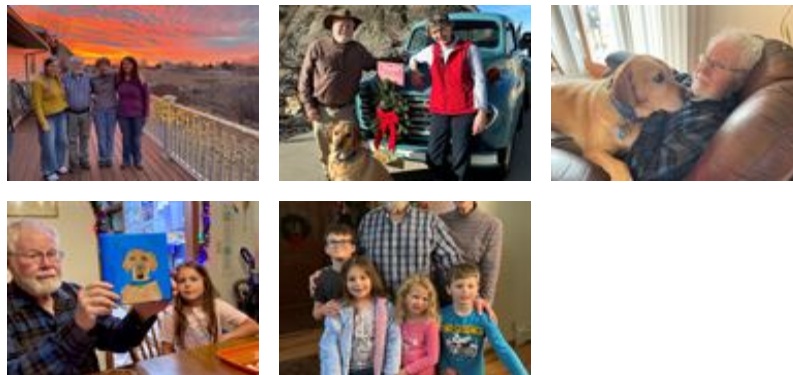
“ Tom, Jill, and Asher Linn purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Rick Donn Elhart.



Tom, Jill, and Asher Linn - March 16 at 02:43 PM



“ 86 files added to the album Life Tributes



Silha Funeral Home - March 03 at 05:47 PM

DS

“ Oh, no! We just saw this. Like Rick believed, he is home now, in the presence of Lord Jesus. We trusted and enjoyed working with Rick all those years, and thanks to his wisdom we are financially solid. A wonderful faithful man who will be sorely missed.

Dale & Linda Stoverud - March 02 at 08:00 AM

KW

“ *Kathy Wegmann sent a virtual gift in memory of Rick Elhart*



Kathy Wegmann - February 22 at 12:49 PM

KV

“ *Dear Susie and Family,
Rick was an amazing man of faith, integrity and with the ability to make everyone feel important. I extend my sympathy to each one of you and pray for God's presence to bring comfort through your memories.
Karyl Viste*

Karyl Viste - February 21 at 02:22 AM

YF

“ *Your WBI Family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Rick Donn Elhart.*



Your WBI Family - February 19 at 04:50 PM

KW

“ Sue & family,

Really enjoyed Rick & my visits !

He told me "If you ever wrote a book, I would read it !!"

My deepest sympathy !

*Your friend,
Kent Wangsness*

Kent Wangsness - February 15 at 04:31 PM

NK

“ *My heart goes out to you at this difficult time.
May the memories you shared bring you
comfort and peace.*



NANCY KORB - February 14 at 09:45 AM

GP

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*



Ginger and Kelly Pulse - February 13 at 08:23 PM

MM

“ *Marla McCormick lit a candle in memory of
Rick Donn Elhart*



Marla McCormick - February 12 at 09:47 PM