



## Russell McDonough

December 7, 1924 - April 3, 2018

Russell C. "Swede" McDonough, 93, of Glendive died from natural causes on April 3,

2018. He is survived by his wife of 72 years Dora Jean (Bidwell); their 6 children Ann

Remmich (Ray) of Sun Prairie, WI, Kay Jensen (Rick) of Glendive, Mary Garfield (Wayne) of

Circle, Montana, Michael (Mary) of Dallas, TX, Kevin (Karon) of Bismarck, ND, Daniel

(Debra) of The Woodlands, TX; 14 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, and 5 great-great

grandchildren; his brothers James McDonough and Michael McDonough. He was predeceased

by his parents, his sister Helen and brother William.

Russell was born December 7th, 1924 at Glendive into a railroad family and was the third

child of Roy and Elsie (Johnson) McDonough. Russell attended Glendive schools and graduated

from high school in 1942 and attended Dawson Community College.

In December of 1942 he enlisted in the Army Air Force and was called to active duty in

March of 1943. In 1944 he flew a combat tour of 35 missions in a B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber

over Europe as a Bombardier with the 96th Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. During such tour he was awarded the Air Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters and the Distinguish Flying Cross. Upon his return to the States he entered pilot training which was cut short by the end of the war and he was discharged in September of 1945.

Swede then attended Montana State University and George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and received a Juris Doctor degree in 1949 from George Washington.

Returning to Glendive he practiced law for over 30 years as an associate of Raymond

Hildebrand, as a sole practitioner, and as a member of the law firm McDonough, Cox and

Simonton. During that time he was Glendive City Attorney, Dawson County Attorney and

served on the Glendive City Park Board. He was one of Glendive Medical Center's organizers

and served on its Board of Directors. He also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of

School District No. 1 and of Dawson Community College. He was a life time member of the

V.F.W. and Elks.

In 1972 he was elected and served as a delegate to the Montana Constitutional

Convention and was later appointed and served on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission

on Post Secondary Education. In 1982 he was elected District Judge of the Seventh Judicial

District. In April of 1987 he was appointed by Governor Schwinden as a

Justice of the Montana

Supreme Court to fill a vacancy and was elected unopposed to a full term in 1988 and retired

from the Court in April of 1993.

In retirement he and Dora lived in Montana and Arizona. His hobbies were traveling to

Europe, reading, politics, tennis, and jet boating and hunting agates on the lower Yellowstone

River. Aside from his professional accomplishments he often said his greatest achievement was

marrying Dora and raising 6 kids. Through his life, and the way he lived it, with honesty,

integrity, service to his country, state and community, and his dedication to family and friends he

left the world a better place. Dora says, "It's been a great ride".

Cremation has taken place and private memorial services will be held. In lieu of flowers,

memorials in his name may be given to Dawson Community College or Grandview Retirement

Center.

Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at:

[www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Russell McDonough*

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December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *To the Family of Russell McDonough,*

*I had the honor of working with Mr. McDonough at the Montana Constitutional Convention. I had just graduated from law school, and had been hired by the Constitutional Convention Preparatory Commission to prepare the research book on taxation and constitutional issues. I was subsequently hired by the Convention itself to serve as a consultant and aide to the Revenue and Finance Committee. Mr. McDonough was extremely kind and generous to me, both as a young lawyer and as a temporary expert on constitutional issues. He always asked my advice, gave me thoughtful feedback, and treated me like a colleague and instant friend. Years later, when I would see him at Convention reunions, he was the same warm, thoughtful, gentle mentor. I have always held him in mind as the kind of lawyer and person I would like to be. I don't think I lived up to that model, but I haven't forgotten him. You have my deepest sympathy for the passing of a remarkable man, a Montanan of the best kind. Roger Barber*

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**Roger Barber** - April 14, 2018 at 11:28 AM

JJ

“ I was fortunate to serve as a law clerk to Justice McDonough his first year at the Montana Supreme Court. My co-clerk was John Melcher. Justice McDonough was a knowledgeable, fair and kind man. He brought the important perspective of a district court judge and delegate to the Constitutional Convention to the Supreme Court. I could never bring myself to call him Swede, but John Melcher did. John would get me to go into Swede's office and get him talking about WWII on the occasional long afternoon at the Court. He was generally a quiet man at the office, but John could get him talking. I have wonderful memories of that time and am grateful for the privilege of having worked for the Justice. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. Jodie Johnson

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**Jodie Johnson** - April 13, 2018 at 04:35 PM

 Mae  
Nan  
Ellingson

“ Dear Dora and family.

*It is with great sadness that I have learned about the death of your beloved Swede. He was a most remarkable man. I count him as one of the most influential and distinguished members of the the Constitutional Convention. He was wise, modest, thoughtful, smart and so very much a gentleman. It was a great experience to sit behind him at the Convention and share thoughts, ideas and strategies for the goals and objectives we had in common. The Revenue and Taxation article, which is largely his work, represents the best of our work and is one of the best of any state constitutions. I feel so fortunate to have known Swede and served with him. I grew to love and respect him so much. Please accept my condolences. He made Montana a better place.  
Mae Nan Ellingson*

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**Mae Nan Ellingson** - April 13, 2018 at 12:57 AM

LS

“ LANETTE SIMONTON lit a candle in memory of Russell McDonough



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**LANETTE SIMONTON** - April 11, 2018 at 02:59 PM

DM

“ To Dora, Mike & Mary, Kaye & Rick, and the entire McDonough Family:  
We are thinking of all of you at this time. The Judge was a wonderful man, and we all are enriched for having known him. His accomplishments were many, and his family is his greatest legacy. Love to all of you.

*Don & Geri Mullendore*

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**Don Mullendore** - April 09, 2018 at 05:23 PM

EH

“ All my love to my McDonough cousins. Many memories of the big brick house and staying there some in the summers. Great memories of Russell and Dora Jean taking the family out in the pontoon boat at intake I believe it was. Memories of family reunions enjoyed by the cousins. I'm so thankful Russell took the time to write down his World War II memories as a favor to me for a friends History class-what a story . What a huge loss for the family but what a reunion on the other side. Wished I could be there today. Love to Dora Jean and the “kids”.

*Love,  
Evelyn Johnson Hauge*

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**Evelyn Johnson Hauge** - April 09, 2018 at 12:05 PM

TD

“ My prayers, sympathies, and fond memories for the McDonough Clan today. God Bless you all, Tom

Tom Degel - April 07, 2018 at 10:38 AM

LO

“ When I think of Russell, I remember him trying to read several newspapers each evening while noisy kids swirled around him! I remember him enjoying watching football games on tv. And I remember his twinkling eyes and dry sense of humor. When my sister Adele got married in Glendive, I stayed the night with the McDonoughs, an unplanned stay. In the morning, I had only one thing to wear: my long bridesmaid dress. So I donned it, and as I came down the beautiful stairway, Uncle Russell stood at the bottom, and sang in a loud and melodious voice, “I could have danced all night...”! He and I had a good laugh. When I think of him, I can't help but smile. I know his family is already missing him, and my sympathy goes out to each one of you. You were blessed to have him with you for so long. Hugs. Laura Strand Ogata

Laura Ogata - April 06, 2018 at 11:40 PM

DS

“ Dick Sadorf lit a candle in memory of Russell McDonough



Dick Sadorf - April 06, 2018 at 07:34 PM

SS

“ Sick Sadorf lit a candle in memory of Russell McDonough



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**Sick Sadorf** - April 06, 2018 at 07:31 PM

RG

“ To the McDonough Family,  
We were saddened to hear of Russell's passing. He led a long and very productive life, and made Montana a better place to live. Although we only met him a couple of times on our Montana trips, he was obviously a very humble man, who will be missed by all. Our prayers are with the entire family,  
Love, Roberta (Bobbie) & Don Garfield

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**Roberta & Don Garfield** - April 06, 2018 at 07:23 PM

KK

“ What a life he led! What a man he was! A sterling representative of the "greatest generation." Quiet courage, dignity, intelligence, humility and grace. As a younger lawyer in Billings, I long knew the name of Russell McDonough, a premier attorney and judge highly respected throughout Montana. No man could leave a better legacy than his good name respected by all.

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**Kent Koolen** - April 06, 2018 at 03:33 PM

DS

“ I will always remember visits to that grand old brick house in Glendive, rock-climbing and caving with my cousins, get-togethers at Stipek, and Uncle Swede's kind words of encouragement when I went to Dawson. Fair Winds and Following Seas Uncle Swede!

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**Doug Strand** - April 06, 2018 at 12:02 PM

LH

“ Saddened to hear of Uncle Russell's passing. He was always kind and always seemed so wise. My parents thought highly of him as we all did. I remember great times with the McDonough's on the river and in their BIG brick house in Glendive. My thoughts and prayers are with Dode and his children.

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**Lorna Hoff** - April 06, 2018 at 11:33 AM

DS

“ Russell was a man of few words, but he had a great gift of including people in his life. I remember when I was a young boy, Russell spent time talking with a deaf and mute person he was a friend to. His openness to the less fortunate and to myself , while attending college in Glendive always boosted my spirit. He was a great uncle in so many ways. My condolences to Aunt Dode and my cousins.

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**Dave Strand** - April 06, 2018 at 08:24 AM

LO

*I, too, send my sympathy to my dear aunt, Dora Jean, and to my six cousins, with whom I made so many great memories as a child. My parents were the ones who spent many hours with Uncle Russell over the years, and they loved being with him and Dora Jean. All of us remember Russell's twinkle in his eye, his great sense of humor, and attention to his many responsibilities. Even though he was a serious man, he often surprised us. After Adele's wedding, I stayed overnight with the family, an unplanned visit. With nothing to wear in the morning except my bridesmaid dress, I donned it to come downstairs and leave. As I descended the stairs, Uncle Russell sang, in a loud and melodious voice, "I could have danced all night..."! What a hilarious way to start the day!*

*I will always remember Uncle Russell with affection. The world is better for having had him in it, and his family is blessed to have had him with them for so long. Hugs to all.*

*Laura Strand Ogata*

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**Laura Ogata** - April 06, 2018 at 12:13 PM

DB

“ prayers and hugs Dora and family  
Swede will be missed by many.  
He had a quiet spirit and a gentle smile.  
Donna Buxbaum

Donna Buxbaum - April 05, 2018 at 08:53 PM

JP

“ Your grandma Bidwell once said "Russell is a man of few words but  
when he speaks we all should listen."

Janet Palen - April 05, 2018 at 04:32 PM

LD

“ Linda Deines lit a candle in memory of  
Russell McDonough



linda deines - April 05, 2018 at 09:59 AM

MG

“ Marlene Gehnert lit a candle in memory of  
Russell McDonough



Marlene Gehnert - April 05, 2018 at 09:35 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, especially Mike and Mary, Kay and Rick, Mary and Wayne. Cherish the memories. Hugs.  
Arvid and Sherry Corneliusen

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**Sherry Corneliusen** - April 05, 2018 at 09:08 AM

GF

“ Greg & Peggy Johnson And Family lit a candle in memory of Russell McDonough



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**Greg & Peggy Johnson and Family** - April 04, 2018 at 09:08 PM

CB

“ Such an awesome guy he was. I have many fond memories of him and will cherish them always. RIP Judge. You have earned your wings many times over! Hugs and prayers to Dora and family.

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**Cindi Hansen Byron** - April 04, 2018 at 07:51 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Russell McDonough.



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April 04, 2018 at 06:29 PM

FL

“ *Frank & Janette Legato lit a candle in memory of Russell McDonough*



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**Frank & Janette Legato** - April 04, 2018 at 03:48 PM



“ *What special people Dora and Russ were. The community lost another great person. Kevin if you need anything let us know*

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**Sandy Snow** - April 04, 2018 at 02:30 PM