



## Vernon Edward Wilson

April 4, 1926 - March 19, 2014

Vernon Edward Wilson, age 87, of Savage, Montana passed away peacefully on Friday, March 14, 2014 at the Eastern Montana Veterans Home in Glendive after being blessed with 87 years on this wonderful earth. By his side at the time of his passing were his loving wife of 64 years and his children. A Memorial service with military honors will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in the First Lutheran Church in Savage, Montana Pastor Nell Lindorf officiating. There will also be a Family and Friends service at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 in the First Lutheran Church in Savage. Interment will be in the Riverview Cemetery in Savage. Silvernale-Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements. Vernon was born on April 4th, 1926, to Willis and Elgena (Miller) Wilson. He came from tough stock as his mom delivered him completely unassisted in a little house out in the hills southwest of Savage. He joined his siblings, Arlo and Lila, and the family grew up farming and ranching. In 1944 Vernon enlisted in the United States Navy and was a gunner's mate on a troop transport in the Pacific, the USS Exchange. He served for two years before being honorably discharged in the spring of 1946. During that time, he celebrated the birth of his eldest daughter, Sandra, with his first wife, Wanda. Vernon, at age 21, met Kathleen Etzel and two years later on September 28th, 1949, they were married. He knew she was the one for him because, "she was so darn hard to catch, lots of guys were after her, but she picked me!" They raised a wonderful family and were blessed with three more children:

Ross, Anne, and Wade; and Suzy, a niece they raised as their own. A man of many talents, Vernon jumped from pillar to post in his employment. Over the course of his lifetime he farmed and ranched, rodeoed, sprayed crops, drove truck, ran a small construction company, managed Rock Creek marina, and repaired small engines. There wasn't anything he couldn't fix, even if that meant leaving out a few parts. In earlier years he found enjoyment in creating the Burns Creek Riders Saddleclub and racing thoroughbreds across the state. Hunting, motorcycling, snowmobiling, and sneaking Kitty's homemade goodies were favorite pastimes that were enjoyed with the kids and grandkids. Vernon's most proud and happy accomplishment was seeing his children grow into good, responsible, caring adults and instilling those same characteristics in their children. His life will be remembered in the stories of his hard work and physical labor, his mischievous wit and incessant teasing of his beautiful wife (which often earned an exasperated, "Vernon!"), and his absolute love for his family. When asked, he "wanted to be remembered as a man who really, really loved his kids and grand kids more than anything else." Vernon was preceded in death by his mother, father, brother, and sister. He is survived by his wife, Kitty; daughter, Sandra Wilson, Culbertson, Montana; son, Ross Wilson, Sidney, Montana; daughter, Anne (Bryan) Carr, Big Arm, Montana; son, Wade (Michelle) Wilson, Gillette, Wyoming; 13 grandchildren; 9 great grand-children; and 2 great-great grandchildren.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Vernon Edward Wilson*

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December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM