



## Walter Francis Rojic

May 30, 1926 - January 8, 2021

. Walter Francis Rojic, age 94, of Sentinel Butte, North Dakota, died at home on his ranch on January 8, 2021, mere hours after sipping his last glass of whiskey in front of a warm fire. Visitation will be from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM with a Rosary Service beginning at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the Silha Funeral Home in Beach, North Dakota. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at St. John's Catholic Church in Beach with Father Dan Berg officiating. Silha Funeral Home of Beach has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Walt was born in 1926, in a dirt-floored log cabin in the Bull Mountains north of Klein, Montana, to immigrant parents; Jacob, a coal miner, and Mary, who waited 15 years in Slovenia to follow while her husband-to-be built a life in America. As a small boy, Walt would wait at the entrance of the coal mine for his father to emerge, who, covered in coal dust, would pick him up and shower off the grime of labor. "Don't ever be a coal miner," Jacob would tell his young son, "not unless you own the mine." It was advice Walt took to heart, and the transition from wage labor to ownership would define his future.

Times were tough, and the arrival of the Dust Bowl years forced the young family to pack up and move to the Ruby Valley in Montana. "There were kids, pigs, and chickens hanging off every side of that car when we left Klein," he would recall, "I remember my mother crying as she waved farewell to the neighbors." The move proved to be a good one. His youth was spent fly-fishing, hunting for supper, and learning the value of hard work. A neighbor

who had hired him to plow up a patch of sod said, "You must be an honest boy, you plow a straight furrow." He graduated high school in Sheridan, Montana, during a time when boys were leaving school to fight the Second World War. His father had other plans for him, however, and sent him to work for a friend south of Wibaux, Montana, where the family would eventually move, and where a life of work began to bear fruit. The opportunity to buy a ranch across the border in North Dakota soon arose, and the now sizable herd was driven 20 miles to a new spread north of Sentinel Butte.

In 1951, duty called and he was drafted into Uncle Sam's Army to serve in the Korean War. His time in the service was the longest he ever spent away from ranch life, and he would often reminisce that, "Sometimes I wish I would have stayed in (the Army) and saw some more of the world." But his life was that of a cowboy, and after his time in the Army, he returned to Sentinel Butte, where he would spend the rest of his life working and building up the ranch.

Like most young ranchers of his day, he rodeo'd, fought, and raised a little Cain as the seasons and customs allowed. To paraphrase a diary entry from those days, "Me and this guy tangled, and neither of us could whip the other, and the girl left with another guy altogether!" In 1974 he married Avis Campbell and became a father in 1974 and 1977. He was a devoted father to his children, and sought to pass on the lessons he'd learned from a lifetime of raising cattle. "Sometimes all them cows need is a good leavin' alone!" he would often say, believing simplicity was the best approach to all things in life. Walt is survived by his son, Scott Rojic, of Sentinel Butte; his daughter, Amber LaPierre(Chris LaPierre), of Glendive, Montana; brother, Albert Rojic, of Wibaux, Montana; two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. Walt is preceded in death by his parents, one brother, one sister, and several good cowdogs.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at: [www.silhafuneralhomes.com](http://www.silhafuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 13. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Beach, North Dakota  
125 4th Avenue Southwest  
P.O. Box 488  
Beach, ND 58621  
(701) 872-3232  
silha@midstate.net

## Rosary Service

JAN 13. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Beach, North Dakota  
125 4th Avenue Southwest  
P.O. Box 488  
Beach, ND 58621  
(701) 872-3232  
silha@midstate.net

## Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
162 2nd Avenue Northeast  
Beach, ND 58621

# Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Francis Rojic*

December 07, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to Walt's family.  
I've enjoyed visiting with him at the Legion and post office and later  
on at the manor.  
I cannot attend his service but my thoughts and prayers are with  
you all.*

**Michele Biellier** - January 14, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ *So sorry for the passing of Walt. Unable to attend funeral but I'm  
sending hugs and prayers to his family. Will be with you all in spirit.*

**alice kunick** - January 14, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Many years ago south of Wibaux the Rojic's and Sartz's shared  
fence lines.  
God bless you Walt.  
Frank Sartz*

**Frank Sartz** - January 13, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ *God bless you Walt. South of Wibaux the Rojic's and Sartz's shared  
fence lines.*

*Frank Sartz*

**Frank J Sartz** - January 13, 2021 at 10:06 AM

JO

“ Sympathy and prayers to Walt's family. We have known Walt for many years. A very patient person when he was around us. Thinking of you Amber and Scott! Cherish the memories!



Janel and Bud Ordahl - January 11, 2021 at 07:43 PM

ML

“ Amber and Scott you have my deepest sympathy all ways know that your dad was a great man I had a lot of respect for him he was the best neighbor one could ask for

maurice Lardy - January 11, 2021 at 02:06 PM

BT

Walt always took time to say hi I can remember as a young lad he did the combing the grain for my grandpa Tescher I can remember his brother Jack he broke his thumb when got it caught in a electric drill the Rojics were good people

Billy tescher - January 13, 2021 at 02:40 PM

MS

Want to convey my Sympathy to the Rajiv family. I planned to go to the funeral, but I don't handle wind well. Walt always had big smile and a friendly greeting. Bud liked to visit with him when ever we ran into in town. Sincerely

Marcia Sperry - January 14, 2021 at 05:06 PM

SW

Your Dad was one of the good guys! Suzi Williams

Susan Williams - January 21, 2021 at 10:33 AM

BD

“ To the Rojic Family (Scott and Amber) I would like to extend my sympathies.  
*Becky Dahl*

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**Becky Dahl** - January 11, 2021 at 11:50 AM

GL

“ *Walt was a good neighbor to my Mom and Dad. I appreciated our visits from time to time when I was in the area and I am thankful for his willingness to let my boys and I hunt his place many, many times! Rest in Peace, Walt and my sympathies to his family.*

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**Greg Lardy** - January 11, 2021 at 09:19 AM



“ *Val and I send our sympathy to Walt's family. He was a good man. Rest in peace.*

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**Carol TescherObrigewitch** - January 09, 2021 at 01:54 PM