



Dean M. Reed

December 3, 1926 - August 14, 2019

Dean M. Reed was reunited with his beloved Barbara on August 14, 2019 on a perfect Georgetown Lake afternoon, napping in his favorite chair, in the cabin he and his wife, Barbara built 28 years ago. Even to the end, Dean attended to detail and had a plan for every contingency. The family is eternally grateful to Dean's college buddy, Denny Wood, who was with Dean when he passed and handled the difficult chore of notifying family and easing Dean's journey to eternity.

Dean Reed was born to John W. and Helen (Schultz) Reed in humble, pre-Depression surroundings outside Corvuso, Minnesota on December 3, 1926. From those roots and his upbringing on the farm, he was forged into a strong and stoic man. A life lived during the Depression gave him a great appreciation for the things he had and a greater understanding that there were many things a person could live without. Consequently, finding a Christmas gift for a man who figured he had all he needed was a perennial challenge.

Before high school graduation in 1945, he enlisted into the US Army and detailed to post-WWII France, an integral member of our country's Greatest Generation. Just behind that calm and collected exterior was a keen intellect and a wicked-sharp sense of humor that would emerge spontaneously at any moment. Some of the best creative writing and commentary of the 21st century is contained in his colorful e-mail accounts to family and friends.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Forestry, Dean took a job with the USDA/Forest Service in the Spring of 1953 in Missoula, subsequently accepting several assignments throughout the National Forests in Montana and Idaho. He and Barbara moved with their four children to Butte in July 1967. The youngest child, Dixie, got her name from the Dixie Ranger station, which Dean managed for four years, prior to coming to be the Ranger of the Butte District in the Deer Lodge NF. Colleagues and friends confided that they were relieved when the youngest was born Dean and Barb were living at Dixie and not at Moose Creek. Who could ask any child to bear the stigma of being named Moose Creek.

Dean's life of public service extended well beyond his 33 years in the Forest Service. In addition to his 16 years as Butte District Ranger, he was a member of several Butte civic

groups including Silver Bow Humane Society, Butte Celebrations, Butte Kiwanis, Boy Scouts of America, and Toastmasters. Many of his works went unrecognized, but not unnoticed. Most folks will never know his integral role in the placement and construction of the iconic Lady of the Rockies, or the development of the Kiwanis Sheepshead camp for the Handicapped at Boy Scout Lake, resulting in the Butte Kiwanis Club recognition from the White House in a ceremony in Washington, D. C.

Dean lived in Butte for 52 years, becoming a silent cornerstone of this extraordinary and remarkable community he loved and called home. He was, to the end, an outdoorsman, bagging his last 3-point buck mule deer just last November. Those of lesser fortitude marveled in his disregard for personal comfort in order to get the job done, whatever it was. When ice-fishing on Georgetown Lake or Canyon Ferry Reservoir in zero-degree temperatures, he was the only guy on the ice not wearing gloves.

Dean is survived by his four children: Scott (Patty) Reed, Sandy (Ted) Elliott, Pat Reed, and Dixie (David) Quandt, and his grandchildren Jessica, Erin, Maggie, Shane and Madison, great-grandchildren Braden, Terek, Maksim and Tavren. The life lessons he delivered to his children are too numerous to list. They are humbled to have known him, happy to have shared him, and forever honored to call him Dad.

While no single event could capture the greatness of this man, there will be a celebration of Dean's life of service and sacrifice in the city that he loved on Saturday, October 5, 2019. A brief Memorial will be held at 11 AM in the church he joined and served for 52 years, Aldersgate United Methodist. A celebration of his life will follow, and continue beyond the brief congregation and commiseration of that gathering at the Fellowship Hall at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church.

Dean loved all animals and fought for humane treatment to all creatures, great and small. In lieu of flowers or other tributes, we request your donation, of any amount, in his name to Chelsea Bailey Animal Shelter or Pintler Pets in Anaconda.

Events

OCT **Service** 11:00AM

5

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1621 Thorton, Butte, MT, US, 59701

Comments



“ George Nelson, Marcia Smith, Kris Henley purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Dean M. Reed.



George Nelson, Marcia Smith, Kris Henley - September 29, 2019 at 12:49 PM



“ I'll never forget when Uncle Dean came to Texas for my sisters wedding. My mom (Dean's younger sister Margaret) put him in charge of the bar. There was quite a line at the bar and a lot folks were all getting the "Dean Special". Mom asked what he was putting in the drink and he said "Whatever's handy!"

Mom always loved corresponding with Uncle Dean. She said he had a very special talent at letter writing. I came to know this myself when Uncle Dean and I started corresponding by e-mail.

I will miss you Unc!

Jo Britt

Jo Britt - August 22, 2019 at 02:30 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about your loss. Your dad was always such a great guy and was a true gentleman. May God bless you and may He provide you with peace during this difficult time. God bless, Bob Bush

Robert Bush - August 21, 2019 at 07:33 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - August 20, 2019 at 01:19 PM