



## Charles Lee "Charley" Worley

January 14, 1943 - January 25, 2022

On January 25th, 2022, the world lost a bright light when Charles Lee "Charley" Worley passed away after a brief illness. Charley was welcomed into this world by Irene (Rowe) and Wayne Worley and older brother Bob on January 14th, 1943.

Charley grew up in Butte, attending Greeley Elementary, East Junior High, and graduated from Butte High School in 1961. While attending Butte High he met and married the love of his life, Karen Griffith. Through this love Charley and Karen welcomed son Wayne and daughter Bonnie.

If you knew Charley, you knew of his amazing work ethic that started at a young age as a paper delivery boy. He worked various jobs in his young life before starting a career at the Anaconda Company. While working for the Anaconda Company Charley started an appliance repair business on the side, "Worley Refridgeration". After the mine shut down Charley went to work for Butte-Silver Bow, where he became the "Ice Meister" making the best ice in the world at the High Altitude Sports Center. Charley spent countless hours perfecting the ice for the world class skaters which resulted in many world records to be set at the rink. This probably had to do to the fact that Charley was a fantastic speed skater himself, so he understood the ice. Charley was even asked a couple of times to run the Zamboni at the Olympics, but he politely declined. The summers were spent repairing sprinkler systems, building park equipment, and maintaining the parks of Butte for all to enjoy. His granddaughters, Rachel and Leena, were lucky enough to spend a few

summers working and learning along-side their Grandpa.

If you needed something fixed or built, Charley was the man to do it. The man could fix anything and everything, and if he couldn't, he would find a book to figure it out. If Charley couldn't fix it, it really was broke. Charley was responsible for many remodels and projects for his family and friends. If Charley wasn't working, you could find him in the woods, throwing a line out, or riding his motorcycle into a mountain lake. His favorite place in the world was the "cabin". Countless hours were spent making memories with the people he loved most. Getting firewood, catching grasshoppers for fishing, picking wild strawberries, roasting a hot dog over the fire, steak fries, and just enjoying the beauty of Montana.

Charley took great pride in having one of the nicest maintained yards in town. The grass was always perfect, trees were trimmed and beautiful blend of flowers were always in bloom. Charley's garden produced a varied of crops that supplied dinner for family, friends, and the neighborhood rabbits. His raspberry bushes produced gallons upon gallons of berries that were shared with family and friends or enjoyed in the yard over a big scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Family was one of Charley's greatest blessings. He looked forward to morning coffees with his son, Wayne and haircuts from his daughter Bonnie. Charley loved traveling around to his grandchildren's sporting events. Countless hours were spent traveling the state and country to softball games and tournaments, volleyball games, cross country meets, track meets, and wrestling matches. Grandpa Charley graduated to GG Charley when Nick was born. A special bond was made between GG Charley and his boys that was unbreakable. Nick and David loved going to GG's house to spend time in the yard helping or in the garage "fixing things".

Charley was preceded in death by his parents, beloved Aunt and Uncle Georgia Pankey and Charles Worley, brother-in-law Donny Griffith numerous cousins and dear friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Karen; son and daughter-in-law,

Wayne and Brenda Worley; daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Pat Worrell; brother and sister-in-law Bob and Chris Worley, grandchildren, Rachel (Andy) D'Amico, Leena Worrell (Cameron), Marnee (Matt) McDonagh, and Wayne Worley; great grandchildren Nick and David D'Amico, Paytyn Harris, Leighton Worley, and Myles Worley; brothers-in-law Mike (Debbie) Griffith and Danny Griffith; sisters-in-law Terri (Dave) Anderson, Susie (Pat) O'Brien, and Diane Bessette; nephews Bobby and Trisha Worley, Steve and Robin Worley, Shane and DeeAnna Worley; numerous great nieces and nephews including special bonds with Maddie and Cole Worley; and lifelong neighbors Ed and Joy Skubitz; and the many beloved friends that Charley loved seeing.

We figured that something must have broken in heaven and they needed Charley to fix it.

We will remember Charley most when we are in the woods, fishing, or on hot summer nights when the temperature gets above 80.

At the request of Charley, cremation has taken place and no services will be held. A private celebration will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials in his memory may be made to the Butte Food Bank.

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ My memoirs of Charlie are the huge smile he would get on his face every time he got behind the wheel of the Zamboni!! Then if it was cold and or snowing he would be covered head to toe in snow and icicle's 🌀. He wouldn't think anything of it and still just a huge smile. He worked as hard as the athletes cuz he wanted the ice fast for all of us. He really put in a ton of hours and did whatever it took. I hadn't seen him in years but he is someone who touched my heart and I will never forget!! I would say RIP, but he is probably fixing a broken Zamboni in heaven and getting it ready for when we join him. Hugs to all of Charlie's family!!!

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**Bonnie Blair Cruikshank** - February 01, 2022 at 08:39 PM

TB

“ Dear Karen, Bob, Chris, other family members,  
I am so sorry for your loss. It was very sad news to hear.  
I can still visualize Charley skating in the races at Clark's Park. He carried on his love for skating undertaking the care of the US Olympic Speed Skating oval in Butte.  
John and I enjoyed our visit with all of you when we were in Butte in September. The Worley and Winston relationship goes way back.  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Charley surely will be missed.  
Love always,  
Terri (Winston) Beaman

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**Terri Winston Beaman** - January 31, 2022 at 11:32 AM

RT

“ Truly a great man. I will always cherish the camping memories with Charley and family. We will visit his favorite huckleberry picking areas where he will always be with us in spirit.

*Rob Turner and Family*

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**Rob Turner** - January 29, 2022 at 01:50 PM

JC

“ Rest in Peace Charlie. You were a kind, gentle soul and will be dearly missed not only by me but particularly by John. You taught him so much over the years... I hope you knew how much you truly meant to him. He literally said recently "I need to go visit Charlie." I wish he would have made it. Good luck fixing everything in Heaven. Hopefully you'll be REALLY busy because - ya - giggle - ya, no need to finish that sentence... Soft smile.

*Sending Karen, Wayne, Bonnie, Bob and families hugs and prayers. We'll talk soon.*

*~John & Karen*

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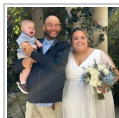
**John & Karen Conniston** - January 27, 2022 at 10:03 AM

RB

“ I agree that something must have been broke in heaven. Charley is part of so many athlete's Olympic dreams. His obituary was shared on a Facebook alumni page and the community is sharing their memories and respect. Much love to Charley's family.

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**Rebekah Bradford** - January 27, 2022 at 09:13 AM



*We would love to read all those memories ❤️*

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**Leena Worrell** - January 27, 2022 at 12:21 PM

TL

“ Thoughts and prayers go out to Charley's family.lost a good one.

Tim lowney - January 27, 2022 at 05:14 AM

LH

“ Condolences from Lois van Hoyt and family.  
Pictures courtesy of Nancee Stanley.



Lois van Hoyt - January 26, 2022 at 11:27 PM

NS

“ Sorry to hear of your loss, it's been about 6 years since I last saw Charley. I had gone back to Butte with my cousin Lois and while we were there they stopped by to chat.. glad I was able to visit with him at that time. Prayers and thought arre with Karen and all his family

Your Cousin Nancee Stanley.

We took picture while we were there if I can find them will list on the site.

nancee stanley - January 26, 2022 at 07:20 PM

CA

“ I will miss our visits you were very special to me. Prayers for Karen and your family Cindy Atcheson

Cindy Atcheson - January 26, 2022 at 05:30 PM