



Daniel Joseph Sullivan

May 15, 1925 - August 22, 2021

Daniel J. Sullivan passed away August 23rd in Barrett Memorial Hospital in Dillon.

Dan was the 3rd (of 4 children) born to Irish immigrants Daniel Park & Elizabeth Mary Sullivan, May 15, 1925. He was raised in Corktown & often shared fond memories of old Butte in the early days.

Life was not easy during those times and was even tougher after his father passed away when he was only 7 years old. His family's rich Irish heritage included faithful regular attendance to St. Mary's Catholic Church (old and new). His extensive work history began as a young boy selling newspapers on the street corners with brother Jack. All the boys would "farm out" to the Sullivan cousins' ranch in Beaverhead County during the summers to earn "potato wages" to help with their mother's winter food supply. Through these early years he learned his horsemanship skills which earned him a job in the mine as a mule-handler. His school education ended after 8th grade but eventually he attended Butte Business College so he could do further work for the mine in their office. At one point he worked for Oro Fino Ice Co. cutting ice at the Elk Park ponds and delivering to the local bars in Butte.

Dan was a Navy combat veteran from World War 11, signing up to serve his country in the South Pacific conflict at age 18. He was assigned to a PT boat squadron which was especially dangerous duty. He came back home after sustaining extensive wounds during an explosion on one of the boats. He spoke little of those hard times at war (as that generation is prone to handling

things more inwardly) but we know he was proud to serve.

He had a truly adventurous career and life forward -as he cowboyed on various ranches, with especially fond memories of the Tuttle ranch in Whitehall. He became a talented carpenter and owned his own construction business in the Dillon area; worked for the National Wildlife Refuge in Lakeview; worked on the Alaskan Pipe-line project; for LaVelle Powder Co out of Butte and Ingersoll Rand Equipment Co. out of Utah and Colorado- where his position as an international mining equipment maintenance supervisor took him to a few interesting but often dangerous locations in other countries. His time spent in Equador especially culminated with many memorable stories.

Some of the past times he enjoyed when not working -was flying his little Cessna 180 airplane and running a small band of sheep at his home north of Dillon. Dan always had a dog or 2 that he loved like family, including his Dobermans during that time.

Eventually Dan settled back down in Butte for good and married his long-time best friend Annelies in 1985. Her 5 children also became the “love of his life” as he then began to pour his beautiful giving self into her care and well-being (and after her passing in 1990)-into the legacy of love relationship he’d built with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The memorable, heart-warming, funny stories each of them hold dear are too numerous to share individually but all are laced with Dan’s witty dry-Irish humor and the strong and enduring warmth of his hospitable nature.

The special things he loved in life most: a good strong cup of coffee shared at his kitchen table, holding and teasing his little grandchildren, old westerns (especially Gun Smoke and John Wayne), haying with Mel and day drives with Jack nephew John and Ted, music-any kind; cooking and sharing meals with family and neighbors; his last beloved dog, Stone; his special time with caregivers Zixi and step-daughter Julie just recently (especially praying and hearing bible verses) and his precious 2 keep-sake silver dollar coins from Annelies held tightly in his hand even upon passing.

Dan was preceded in death by his 1st wife Dorothy, his sister and brother-in-law, Ester and Bill Moore of Butte; brothers and sister-in-law, Jack and Catherine Sullivan of Bremerton, Wa and Neil Sullivan of Butte and 2nd wife- Annelies Sullivan.

He is survived by sister-in-law (Neil's wife) Lucille Sullivan of Butte and also a multitude of Sullivan nieces and nephews in Butte, surrounding areas in Montana, California and Washington state-Also survived by cousins in County Cork, Ireland and Butte. Additional survivors are his step-children- Wayne & Julie Montgomery (Yakima, Wa), Mel & Jeanette Montgomery (Lakeview); Mary and John Storey (Butte); Julie & Jody Jackson (Bradenton, FL); Lisa & Max Yates (Lima) and a multitude of grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Montana, Washington state, Tennessee and Florida. Also forever special friends-Vila, Chris, Shipleys', Murphys', Jason, Pesanti's, Ted and Zixi.

"May you rest in peace-sweet, gentle man- "good and faithful servant". You have fought the good fight and we will truly miss your radiant love given so selflessly to us all"

Funeral arrangements are through Wayrynen Richards Funeral Home in Butte and cremation has taken place. A private family gathering and interment of ashes is being planned. Memorials to charity of donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

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“ Dan was one of my favorite people. He helped my dad with Dr. Appointments in Butte, and helped us s (along with Annelies) to move to Sandpoint.30+ years ago. I am so sorry for your loss but it was a life well lived.

Alice - September 11, 2021 at 05:52 PM

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“ Did not know Mr. Sullivan but reading his obituary I realized how we are all connected. Esther and Bill Moore were family friends who we went on vacation with to Swan Lake and my wife and I lived in Yakima, WA. for 4 years before her passing. My Condolences to the family and to Bill and Connie Moore.

Terry Dunfee - August 28, 2021 at 12:22 PM