



Earl Melvin "Mel" Rauch

January 5, 1948 - January 21, 2024

Earl 'Mel' Rauch passed away on January 21, 2024. He was surrounded by his family at the Veterans Home in Butte, MT.

Mel was born in Butte, MT on January 5, 1948, to Earl Melvin and Lois (Williams) Rauch. Mel was the third child of 5 born to Earl and Lois (Williams) Rauch.

Mel attended Longfellow grade school, East Junior High, and Butte High School. He later completed a GED and graduated from Montana Tech with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business.

In 1970 he joined the Montana National Guard and went to Officer Candidates School. He later transferred to the Army Reserve and served 22 years. While in the service he was a successful competitive pistol shooter. He was trained as a Logistical Operations Officer. He spent a great deal of his military service working in Germany and Denmark. He retired from the military shortly after returning from the Persian Gulf War.

Mel had a variety of jobs throughout his life. Early on Mel worked as a miner in the Stewart Mine for a few years and then transferred to the Berkley Pit as a heavy equipment operator. He owned a gas station in Butte, MT. He was a Dispatcher, EMT, and Police Officer for the Butte Police Department for many years. He was also the Director of Buildings Maintenance, and Transportation for the Butte School District. Mel was known to be a hard worker, he always had something to tinker on whether it was a project in the garage or working his land.

Throughout his life Mel donated countless hours to the Boy Scouts of America. He was a Scoutmaster several times and held many other scouting positions in the Vigilante District. During his years of service, he received numerous awards including The Prestigious Silver Beaver Award.

Mel was a devote member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He held numerous positions within the church.

In his younger years Mel was an avid hunter, fisher, and horseback rider. He loved taking trips to the Bob Marshal Wilderness on horseback. He enjoyed camping with his family, the boy scouts and the LDS church.

Mel married Patricia Connors of Butte on November 12, 1965. Together they had two daughters: Keli and Melissa. Mel and Pat later divorced.

On May 19, 1972, Mel married Jineen Fae Duffy of Butte in the Idaho Falls Temple. Together they have 5 children: Benjamin, Andrew, Clara, Rebekah, and Samuel.

A big motivating factor in Mel's life in his later years was his many grandchildren. Being able to spend time with them lite up his world.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sisters, Rosemary Stock and Barabara Masters and grandson Tye Batterman.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years Jineen Rauch, and his children: Keli and Jay Fortune of Butte, Melissa and Craig Barker of Boise; Benjamin and Kelley Rauch of Butte; Andrew and Marci Rauch of Butte; Clara Rauch-Davis of Clancy; Rebekah Mackey of Billings and Samuel Rauch of Butte. His many grandchildren, Justin Fortune; Zach, Kyle and Brandon Barker; Kyle, Brianne, Cora, and Ledoux Rauch; Zach, Andrew, Rafe, Tayla, and Talon Rauch; Wyatt Rauch and Declan Davis; Evy Mackey; Jace, Eme, and Samson Rauch; and 2 great grandchildren Axel and Cruz Fortune.

Mel's funeral service will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1531 Mount Highland Drive, Butte at 11:00 am. Family and friends are welcome.

Cemetery Details

Mount Moriah Cemetery

2415 S. Montana Street
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN 27. 11:00 AM (MT)

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1351 Mt. Highland Dr
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

TU

“ *Jineen! I wanted to send my condolences and prayers for peace. I always thought highly of Mel and admired him for being so well grounded. He was a great example to all of the youth in the Butte ward. He was welcoming and encouraging. I am sure he will be greatly missed. Sincerely, Tami Ungerman*

Tami Ungerman - February 03, 2024 at 06:24 PM



“ *Jineen and family,*

I have nothing but great memories of Mel in my youth. He was always there with a smile and a joke to help me out when no one else seemed to care. To put a smile on my face and turn the day around.

My thoughts and prayers are with with you.

Dave Ungerman

Dave Ungerman - January 30, 2024 at 08:24 AM

JW

“ *Jineen and family,*
Sorry to hear of Mel's passing, he went through a lot for the past few years. May he rest in peace.
Condolences to all,
Retired Sheriff John Walsh and Teri

John Walsh - January 27, 2024 at 01:33 PM

JH

“ *Jineen and Family, we extend sincere sympathy to each of you. May the memories of all those good times help you adjust to this great loss in your family. Sending blessings of peace and comfort. Bob and Jolene Hunsaker.*

Jolene Hunsaker - January 27, 2024 at 11:01 AM

SV

“ *Jineen and Family, I'm so sorry to hear of Mel's passing. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I didn't work with him but enjoyed Scouts with him. No matter where or when I saw him, he always knew who I was and always was kind.*

Sharon Vidrich - January 26, 2024 at 01:11 AM