



## James Joseph "Red" Riley

December 9, 1934 - July 8, 2023

James (Red) J. Riley, 88, of Butte, MT passed away on July 8th 2023 surrounded by his family.

He was born December 9th 1934 in Butte, Montana at St. James Hospital to Jim and Helen (Harper) Riley.

He attended St. Patrick's Elementary School and Boys Central High School where he graduated in 1953.

Upon graduation he began a career with the United States Postal Service.

During his 37 years of service Red walked his mail route in Uptown Butte every day. He had many friends along his route, both human and canine. He retired in 1990 and left the hills, stairs, and freezing weather to the next generation.

In 1955 he married the love of his life and best friend Sharon (O'Neill) Riley. They celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in January of 2023. They were blessed with three children: Dave, Paul, and Michele.

His hobbies included playing golf when the Butte weather allowed, watching football - especially when the Bears were doing well, and keeping a pristine yard. He was always mowing, trimming, and pruning until everything met his standards.

Red Riley had a quick wit and a soft heart. He spoke little and listened intently. He cared deeply about his family. Throughout his life, Red did not ask for anything, and always felt he had everything he needed.

He is survived by: his wife Sharon (O'Neill) Riley, sister Darlene (Riley) Dwyer,

son Dave Riley (Ann Lynn), son Paul Riley (Colleen), daughter Michele (Riley) Tangaro (James), grandchildren Chris Riley, Lindsay (Riley) Cantrell (Jon), Shannon, Rachel Tangaro, Ashley Tangaro, great grandchildren Peyton and Brody Cantrell and nieces and nephews Debbie Dwyer-Cruickshank, Christine Dwyer, Mike Dwyer and Riley Dwyer.

He was preceded in death by: his parents Jim and Helen (Harper) Riley, stepmother Lil Riley, stepsister Virginia Goodfellow, and in-laws Dave and Edna (Shakespeare) O'Neill

His family will receive friends beginning at 10 o'clock in St. Ann Catholic Church where funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 o'clock. A reception will follow. Express condolences at [www.wayrynen-richards.com](http://www.wayrynen-richards.com). In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to either the Butte Food Bank or Chelsea Baily Animal Shelter.

Special thanks to St. James Healthcare for their compassion and expertise. Thanks Dad, for giving us the life of Riley.

# Cemetery Details

## Holy Cross Cemetery

4700 Harrison Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church  
2100 Farragut Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701

## Funeral Mass

JUL 13. 11:00 AM (MT)

St Ann's Catholic Church  
2100 Farragut Ave  
Butte, MT 59701-6102  
(406) 723-4303

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ The S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Joseph "Red" Riley.

The S. - July 14, 2023 at 02:12 PM

DC

“ Paul:

Very sorry to hear of you father's passing. Growing up in Butte as a letter carrier's kid in the 60s and 70s was an amazing life. I remember your dad well and particularly at Clark Park during all the speed skating races. Smile and remember all the good things.  
Respectfully, Dan Clague

Dan Clague - July 13, 2023 at 08:29 PM

MM

I am so sorry to hear of Red's passing . Growing up, I spent more time at your house than my own ! You were the perfect family and always welcomed me in! Your dad was the strong , silent , and kind . He was calm under pressure with a great sense of humor . He loved his family so much . What a wonderful man and suck a wonderful family !!! I am sending healing to the Riley clan. I am also so grateful for all the memories of him and his beautiful family .

Melissa Mccarthy - July 14, 2023 at 12:03 PM

FD

“ Paul and Sharon, so sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad, Husband and my good pal Red. He was my Mom's favorite mailman. God bless all of you. You are in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless,  
Fritz Daily

Fritz Daily - July 13, 2023 at 01:25 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Joseph "Red" Riley.*



July 11, 2023 at 12:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of James Joseph "Red" Riley.

July 11, 2023 at 12:16 AM



“ So very many precious memories with our friends Red and Sharon over 73 years. An incredible man, a caring friend, a loving family man. Red's down to earth personality won him enduring friendships. He will be missed mightily. My heart breaks for Sharon and the beautiful family he leaves. 💔 Always and forever our cherished Round Robin friend

Lois - July 10, 2023 at 05:08 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - July 10, 2023 at 03:15 PM