



Joseph Edward Wedlake

January 11, 1920 - June 10, 2017

Joseph Edward Wedlake passed away at the age of 97 on Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Peace Hospice in Great Falls, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Butte January 11, 1920 to George and Helen (O'Donnell) Wedlake, grew up in Butte and attended the Monroe School. Even as a young child Joe was intrigued by the railroad yard. He later was employed by Northern Pacific Rail Road and soon after was drafted into the US Army. Joe served from the very first day of World War II until the very last day, serving in Germany and South Africa on the railroad. When the war was over he returned to Butte and once again went to work for Northern Pacific, retiring as yardmaster.

It was while at a dance at the Columbia Gardens where Joe met Lorraine Babb. They fell in love and were married in Deer Lodge on February 16, 1946. Together they had two daughters, Barbara and Bonnie. Joe and Lorraine were married 62 years when Lorraine passed away in 2008. Following her passing, Joe joined the senior league at the Star Lanes where he bowled every Thursday. He was also an avid gun collector.

Due to his failing health, Joe moved to Great Falls to be near his daughter. He resided at the Rainbow Senior Living and enjoyed going to the duck pond and McDonald's with his great-great-grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Joe was very proud that he had seven great-great-grandchildren. He enjoyed telling stories of World War II and the great town of Butte.

He is preceded in death by his parents, siblings, wife, Lorraine and his daughter, Bonnie. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara Graves,

granddaughter, Tracy (Dwayne), grandson Mark (Richard) and granddaughter Michelle. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Megan, Shannon and Mason and his seven great-great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Our Lady of the Rockies or the Peace Hospice in Great Falls.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

16 miles west of Butte
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Service

JUN 15. 1:00 PM (MT)

Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home
1800 Florence Ave
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 723-3221
<https://wayrynen-richards.com/>

Tribute Wall

TR

“ *Tina Rader lit a candle in memory of Joseph Edward Wedlake*



Tina Rader - June 15, 2017 at 09:42 PM

TR

“ *My name is Tina Rader I met Joe when he came to see your mother Lorraine in the nursing home I worked at we became such good friends. After the passing of Lorraine and Bonnie me and Joe would go to lunch or just do whatever Joe needed to do I feel so bad I lost contact with him I missed the fun we had and our talks. My deepest sympathy to all of you RIP in my dear friend*

Tina Rader - June 15, 2017 at 09:40 PM

GU

“ *Barbra,
I enjoyed working with your dad in Butte. We talked a lot about your family and mine he was a great guy. hope you are doing well*
Gary Ugrin

Gary Ugrin - June 14, 2017 at 02:09 PM

MC

“ I worked with Joe on the railroad while attending Montana Tech. Joe kept me entertained with his WWII stories. When they landed Sicily they used their 45's to open giant wine barrels on the dock. Joe said Eisenhower ,himself, flew in to reprimand their outfit.

I have travelled the world since my railroad days and never met a better man.

Rest in peace Joe "Redlegs"

Mike Cavanaugh

Mike Cavanaugh - June 14, 2017 at 11:41 AM