



## Kenneth Ronald Yates

January 20, 1941 - July 5, 2022

Kenneth Ronald Yates, husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend to so many, and stranger to no one, passed away on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at the family home in Opportunity following an extended illness. Ken's wife and daughters were so blessed to be holding him in his last moments. Thank you to Anaconda Pintler Hospice – our angels on earth.

Ken was born in Butte, Montana on January 20, 1941 to Ken and Ann (Bence) Yates. He was raised in Butte and graduated from Butte High School in 1958. After a 21-year career in the United States Air Force, he returned to the Butte area with his family.

He married his grade school sweetheart Sherry (who was delivered by the same doctor six months apart) in 1959. His greatest love...was his wife and family.

As a youngster, he worked as a pin setter at a bowling alley, and delivered groceries and newspapers.

After graduation, he went to work at Mt Con Mine until a strike in 1958 and enlisted in the Air Force. He was stationed in New Mexico, Okinawa, Idaho, Thailand, and California during his military years. Attaining the rank of Master Sargent, he was a Tactical Aircraft Maintenance Superintendent when he retired.

One of the highlights of his career was getting to meet John F. Kennedy in Pensacola at a firepower demonstration. Another highlight in his life was obtaining his pilot and flight instructor licenses. He took his family on many

trips during his flying days.

After his retirement, he worked for a short time at the Montana State Prison before embarking on a 27-year career at the Butte Post Office. He was so proud of all of his accomplishments.

Ken loved his sports. He followed the Montana Grizzlies, Green Bay Packers, Boston Celtics, and Notre Dame Fighting Irish. He and Sherry were the official and unofficial Grandparents of the Butte High School Girls' Softball Team(s) for several years. An avid bowler since he was young, he bowled on many leagues throughout the years.

Ken is survived by his wife, Sherry with whom he shared a 62-year marriage; daughter Julie (Kirt) Mayson; daughter Joy (Brian) Coldiron; grandson Ken (Jessyca) Coldiron, and great grandson Gunnar; granddaughter Ashley (Tristan) Crowe and great granddaughter Ina; Granddaughter Chelsey (Corey) Williams; granddaughter Rachel (Brian) Rotolo; granddaughter Tiffany Mayson. Ken is also survived by his sister Margie Irmien, brother-in-law Bobby Stewart, sister-in-law Nancy Warren, brother-in-law Gene Boschee, and special brother-in-law Terry Kivela, as well as several nieces, nephews and friends who were family. He is also survived by his little faithful companions, Jack and Kaboo.

Preceding Ken in death were his parents, step-parents, brothers Bob Yates, Gary Warren, and Joe Warren, and sister Judy Stewart.

Thank you to our special angel, Bob Foley, who gave us 7 more years with him.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be conducted Thursday, July 14th at 10:00 a.m. in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home with Pastor Marlow Carrels officiating. Entombment of ashes will be in Mountain View Cemetery and a reception will follow at the Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## Mountain View Cemetery

3910 Harrison Avenue  
Butte, MT 59701

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 14. 10:00 AM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ronald Yates.* ”



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July 11, 2022 at 04:43 PM



“ *Tracy Adams purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Kenneth Ronald Yates.* ”



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**Tracy Adams** - July 11, 2022 at 09:47 AM



“ *Julie, I'm so sorry for the passing of your father. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers! God bless! Sharon Heneghan* ”

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**Sharon** - July 08, 2022 at 02:06 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth Ronald Yates.* ”



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July 08, 2022 at 10:05 AM

BH

“ *The Hart family will never forget the wonderful time we had when we spent our Summer vacation with the Yates family in Butte. Remember finally enjoying one of John’s pork chop sandwiches that I heard Ken talk about for years, but mainly getting to see, first hand, how beautiful Ken’s beloved Montana was. We shared many great years in our military days in California with the Yates family as our best friends...Ken and Sherry introduced us to bowling and they became our league partners for years. But the holidays were the best. Sherry and Audrey always prepared a feast we all enjoyed, but Ken, well, you had to be there. He was the best man I ever worked with in the Air Force and I never met a man that did not hold him in the highest esteem. As far as being a Husband and Father, he set the bar high and kept it there. It was always my goal to be half as good as him. He was our friend and he will be missed but there will always be times his memory will pop into our heads and we will smile.*

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**Bryan Hart** - July 07, 2022 at 09:46 PM

BF

“ *Bryan and Audrey Hart and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kenneth Ronald Yates.*



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**Bryan and Audrey Hart and Family** - July 07, 2022 at 09:29 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home** - July 07, 2022 at 06:15 PM