



Paul Gregory "Gregg" Edelen

January 13, 1948 - July 22, 2024

Paul Gregory (Gregg) Edelen passed away on July 22, 2024, at Beehive Homes in Butte. Gregg was born to Ben & Selma (Conrad) Edelen in Sacramento, California, on January 13, 1948. Ben was in the United States Air Force so Gregg lived in several locations during his childhood, graduating from high school in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1966. The Edelen family eventually ended up stationed at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, where Ben retired. In 1969, Gregg moved from Great Falls to Butte, Montana, where he spent the remainder of his life.

Gregg married Connie Danielson in Butte on August 16, 1974. They had two sons, Todd (first son) (April) and Lee (second son) (Shana) and two grandchildren, Wyatt and Kymber. Connie, April, and Shana were always known as the "fake Edelens," which is a continuing family joke. Gregg was a devoted papa to Wyatt and Kymber and enjoyed spending time with them and watching them in all their activities. They enjoyed sitting at the dining room table coloring and playing Aggravation.

Gregg moved to Butte in 1969, to be the manager of Kentucky Fried Chicken. When he'd had enough of that, he worked for the Anaconda Company as a shovel operator. When the Anaconda Company had a reduction in force in the mid-1970s, Gregg went to work at Sherwin Williams for a few years. He then worked at Montana Bank for several years as a loan officer. Gregg's final employment was with Butte Silver Bow Law Enforcement. He had many duties at the police department, but his main focus was the SVOR registry. He

also enjoyed dressing up as McGruff the Crime Dog and visiting elementary schools in Butte with patrol officers. He retired in 2017 after serving 34 years in law enforcement.

Gregg was involved in many activities. He spent more than 20 years as an advisor with Junior Achievement as well as an instructor for Hunter Education. For more than 35 years, Gregg was a wedding photographer. He took wedding photos for hundreds of couples through the years, eventually taking wedding photos for some of the children of his original wedding couples. Many will also remember him volunteering his time for Santa Paws pictures every year. And it wouldn't be St. Patrick's Day in Butte without Gregg serving kielbasa dogs and beer at Terminal Foods.

Gregg loved fly fishing, first learning from Biff Redfern in the 1970s. Biff also taught Gregg to row a boat. He quickly became an expert oarsman, and of course he had to have his own raft! He learned about the salmon fly hatch on the Big Hole River every June, and never missed one. Biff also taught Gregg how to tie flies, and he spent many hours perfecting his fly-tying skills.

Gregg had many fishing buddies through the years – Biff Redfern, Dave Richards, Jim Phillips, Gale Allen, Lee Tuott, and Ken Penrod, Gregg's brother from another mother! Gregg made many memorable fishing trips through the years – Canada, Louisiana, Idaho, Washington, and the Bahamas. He also spent many happy fishing days near Gates of the Mountains, which, of course, meant another boat – a jonboat. But his favorite fishing was less than 40 miles from Butte – the Big Hole River and Georgetown Lake (had to buy another boat specifically for Georgetown Lake fishing)! I lost count of how many boats and rafts Gregg had, but it was a lot! Gregg was always sure to remind us that “fish fear me.”

From 1983 until 2020, Gregg and Connie owned and operated Tadroh Kennels. We had many repeat customers and made so many friends through the years. And of course, many kennel customers also became fishing friends. And he needed a bigger boat so more people could fish!

In the late 1990s, Gregg discovered pottery. For many years he took classes

at the Archie Bray in Helena, driving back and forth several nights a week in his silver diesel Volkswagon bug. (Brooklinn is now the caretaker of the silver bug. It is in good hands). Gregg was soon proficient enough to teach Adult Education pottery classes at Butte High three nights a week. He was skilled enough that his work was shown in galleries around Montana – Virginia City, Dillon, Helena, and the Stope in Butte. He was so pleased that people liked his work and were willing to pay for it!!!

The classes were so popular that there was always a waiting list of people hoping to get into Gregg's classes. One of his adult ed students was Shana (Lee's girlfriend). She had never worked with clay and Gregg was intent on teaching her. It was soon apparent that Shana just didn't get it and after several weeks of class Gregg told her "It's hopeless!"

It was through adult education at Butte High that he met Mike Kujawa. They were friends for the remainder of Gregg's life. Gregg would do whatever was necessary to help Mike with throwing, glazing, and firing. He loved every minute! About 11 years ago, Mike and Gregg took on a new challenge – Empty Bowls.

Empty Bowls is sponsored by and supports the Backpack Program for children in the Butte community through the Food Bank. The backpack program provides food to children in grades K through 12 who have been identified by their teachers as food insecure. Gregg and Mike and volunteers from Butte volunteered hundreds of hours every year to ensure a successful program. They threw, glazed, and fired upwards of 1,500 bowls every year for this one-night event at the Civic Center.

Gregg was preceded in death by his mother and father, and his in-laws, Lee and Joyce Danielson. He is survived by Connie, his wife of 50 years, Todd, Lee, April, Shana, Wyatt and Kymber, and his brother, Milan.

Memorials are suggested to Hungry Hill Center for Art, Education, & Outreach, c/o Mike Kujawa, 68 West Park Street, Butte, Montana, 59701.

We would like to mention Beehive Homes of Butte where Gregg resided for the last 14 months. We couldn't have asked for a better place. The staff is exceptionally caring and we knew he was getting the care he needed. Thank you so much for taking such good care of Gregg. We appreciate you!

Gregg, I will miss you forever, but our memories are everywhere. I see you in Todd and Lee and Wyatt and Kymber. You may no longer be here physically, but you will always be in my heart. I love you.

Cremation has taken place and a private memorial service will be held at a later date for the immediate family.

I give you this one thought to keep,

I am with you still – I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain,

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush,

I am the swift, uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone,

I am with you still in each new dawn.

Tribute Wall

DH

“*Connie, Todd, Lee, and Family, I am so sorry to hear of Gregg's passing. I had the privilege of teaching both Todd and Lee at Margaret Leary, and Gregg and Connie were always so supportive of my efforts. I'll never forget that! Gregg was such a great person and so likeable! May his family be comforted in knowing that there will someday be a grand reunion with him and all his family. Dave (and Cindie) Henrich former residents of Butte, now living in Parowan, Utah*

David W. Henrich - October 17, 2024 at 01:44 AM

SG

“*Connie, Todd, Lee, and Family, I am so sorry. Gregg was truly genuine, compassionate, and funny too. Great conversations (mostly fishing) I will always remember his smile, he always had a smile, and loved life. Love to you all*

Sandy and Larry Girdler - August 17, 2024 at 10:17 AM

DP

“*Connie so sorry to hear about Gregg. He was a great man. Danene*

Danene L Petritz - August 15, 2024 at 03:08 PM

LC

“*Gregg was a great man and friend with many talents. He was the photographer for all 3 of our kids weddings and even went to Spokane to photograph one of our daughters. He was just such a good person and will be missed by many. Sincere condolences to his family.*

Larry & Donna Colvin - August 13, 2024 at 09:44 AM

PC

“ Gregg was a quiet hero to the community at the Archie Bray ... he was a tireless volunteer, cheerleader and sharer of tips and tricks and processes. He spoke so kindly of his patient wife and his fishing trips, his interesting day job antics, and all he knew and was eager to try in the ceramics world.

Patricia Ceglio - August 12, 2024 at 07:20 PM

SF

“ Gregg we miss you so much already. You were a great father in law and I am so glad I got to learn pottery from you even though there was no help for me according to you! Lee and I will forever cherish you in our hearts and will display your pottery for everyone to enjoy. Please watch over us, Connie, Todd, April, Wyatt and Kymber. We love and miss you so much

Shana Fortune - August 02, 2024 at 05:51 PM

RH

He was so nice. Remember he told me my finger prints would not be good because I typed too much...he was right. My sympathies to his family.

Rosemary hayes - August 02, 2024 at 06:34 PM

CP

My family and I will always remember Gregg as the great guy who taught Ken how to fish and tie flies. They became great friends, and Gregg took many pictures of our Grandson, Troy and family pictures of all of us. Ken and Gregg had some fun times bird hunting also. Connie and I became good friends through these two "brothers from another mother". We still have some of his pottery that will always remain in the family. Rest in Peace, dear friend. Much love to Connie and their entire family.

Connie Penrod and family

Connie L Penrod - August 02, 2024 at 10:26 PM



*Oh my gosh, Connie I am so sad to read of Gregg's passing. It sounds Like he experienced so many things in life with the many all that he did. I knew he was not a person who could not sit still much, but Lord, I had no idea he had so many experiences in so many areas. When I think of Gregg Edelen, I think of a very kind and personable person. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word for someone. 🍷
I am so sorry my friend. Know you are in my thoughts today.*

Charlene Warren - August 03, 2024 at 12:14 PM

PR

Connie and family, Mike and I send our most sincere condolences. May Gregg's memory forever be a comfort to you. Pam and Mike Rudolph

pam Duncan Rudolph - August 03, 2024 at 02:51 PM

JH

*Gregg.....
Was a gentleman. What a loss. Prayers for your family and rest in peace Gregg.
Jim Hash*

Jim Hash - August 03, 2024 at 06:32 PM

LW

Our prayers & thoughts are with you Connie and family.

Lee & Lorelee Wind - August 04, 2024 at 11:18 AM

JN

Gregg taught me to love pottery and to have fun while throwing pottery. He was a good guy and will be missed.

Jen Nardiello - August 04, 2024 at 03:00 PM

LH

What a great man. Took many pictures for us. Will treasure them always. Sincere condolences to the entire family.

Laura Hash - August 09, 2024 at 12:19 PM

LT

A day doesn't go by that I don't think of Gregg! Great memories of fishing, hunting, and lots of kidding and teasing about things like food - especially potatoes! Gregg was a good friend and i miss him. As the Irish blessing notes "Those we love don't go away. They walk beside us every day, unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear."

Lee Tuott - September 01, 2024 at 08:01 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - August 02, 2024 at 02:57 PM

TS

I first met Gregg when he began stopping into the Frame Gallery to look at whatever exhibit happened to be on display. If it was abstract work either he or his grandchildren could do better, said with a twinkle in his eye, and a fun discussion would follow. When he joined the Main Stope Gallery to display his lovely pottery , I got to see his creativity, kindness and humanity. When I drink my coffee in my favorite cup, a Gregg original, I will remember and miss a gentleman. My condolence to Connie and family.

Toni Seccomb - August 03, 2024 at 08:59 AM

JS

Connie,

So sorry to hear of Greg's passing. My condolences to you and the family. He will be missed !

Jim Sulgrove - September 01, 2024 at 10:09 PM

RG

So sorry to hear of Greg's passing. He was truly an extraordinary, friendly, funny man. He will be truly missed.

Randy & Sharon Guizzo - September 11, 2024 at 01:23 PM