



## Robert Joseph "Ace" Kovacich

May 14, 1938 - October 25, 2022

Robert Joseph "ACE" Kovacich passed away peacefully Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Bob was born Saturday, May 14, 1938 in Butte, Mt. to Jake and Mary Kovacich. After graduating from Butte Central High School, he enlisted in the US Army and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. Following his honorable discharge, he went on to obtain his Masters Degree in Education from Montana Western College.

He taught English at East Junior High School for 28 years. He played high school football, baseball and men's softball. He was an avid handball player, earning the nickname ACE, because of his great serve. He enjoyed hunting, camping, floating, snowmobiling, riding Harleys and going for rides in the side by side. He was a "Musician Extraordinaire" entertaining all over Montana. He played the violin, mandolin, fiddle, guitar, banjo, piano & harmonica. His band "The Renegades" played all over Butte in the 60s. In the 70s he formed another band "Tinkle, Plunk & Boom". Later on, Bob and Bob Wilcox, known as the "Bobs" continued to entertain Butte residents. In the past few years Bob enjoyed playing at several nursing homes and rehab centers. Bob often joked that he was "working his way in". He is survived by his wife Karen (Ostenburg) Kovacich, daughters; Laurie Trbovich, Dawn (Trbovich) Murphy & Robyn (Keith) Davis, sons; Steve (Cheri) & Dan Trbovich. brother Fred (Karen) Kovacich, sisters; Marilyn (Ricky) Petritz & Joni (Doug) Sanderson. 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, numerous nieces and nephews, and a world of friends. He is preceded in death by his

parents Jake & Mary Kovacich, brother Joey Kovacich, sons; Robert Joseph (Pudgie) & Lance Kovacich.

Funeral mass will be celebrated at St. Ann's Church on 11 November 2022, at 1 p.m., 2100 Farragut Ave., Butte, a reception will follow at the Butte Country Club, 3400 Elizabeth Warren Ave.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

NOV 11. 1:00 PM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall

JL

“ Bob and I were Army buddies, from basic training thru the 101st Airborne Jump School. We had a number of adventures together, trips to Chicago and Atlanta among others. He kept the barracks hopping with his guitar and singing Kansas City. We had many good times.

*Jerry Lindeleaf*

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**Jerry Lindeleaf** - December 23, 2023 at 08:16 PM

LC

*Bob was the best at many things especially having a good time. I knew Bob some grade school. He had a well-deserved reputation for wilding but there was nobody who was a better best friend. I don't think he had a mean bone in his body. If you needed a nickel, and it was his last nickel, he would give it to you. A great loss to Karen, the city of Butte , and to everyone who came in contact with him!*

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**Latry Cyr** - April 13, 2025 at 07:54 PM

MT

“ Mr. Kovacich was the best. I first met him in 7th grade at East Jr. High, for English. He had a way to actually enjoy the class. Everything from playing records, to his unique classroom decor. One thing is certain, you knew English u the time the year was over. Bob, you were the best on teaching, your music and the special way you made your students feel, I'm honored by our lifelong friendship that followed.

*I miss you my friend.*

*Mudge Tamietti*

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**Mudge Tamietti** - November 10, 2022 at 09:42 AM

DJ

“ *What fun loving great guy and talented. I met the man first with Bone's Kasun at the Grand national fiddle contest in Weiser Idaho. With his top hat and half gallon glass jug of some kind of wine it was memorable Wally*

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**doug jones** - November 09, 2022 at 10:12 PM

RV

“ *Ace taught me English at East High Middle school in 1965. We played Handball in the early 70's. Yes he had a wicked hopping, overhand serve that earned a lot of points and kept me on my toes in the court.*

*I remember working at Lydia's in the late 60s bussing dishes and sharing a toke outside during a break in the music at a gig his band was playing there in the ball room. Ace was a fun loving guy and always a pleasure to be around! 😊 May God Bless you all as Ace blessed me.*

*Ray Vidic Juneau Alaska rayvidic@gmail.com*

*PS. A shout out to Laurie, a Middle School friend too. ☐*



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**Ray Vidic** - November 05, 2022 at 07:54 AM

RJ

“ *Bob, you will be missed by so many. Condolences to Karen and family and so many friends . God bless you the Elvis of Butte. Rhonda Rhonda Johnson.*

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**Rhonda Johnson** - November 04, 2022 at 12:38 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Joseph "Ace" Kovacich.*



November 01, 2022 at 11:15 PM



“ *I was an educator for thirty five years and nowhere did I learn more about kids and teaching kids than I did the three months student teaching for Bob Kovacich in 1972. Thank you again, Bob. RIP Jim Saxton*

**Jim Saxton** - November 01, 2022 at 07:05 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



**Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home** - October 31, 2022 at 11:55 AM



*Such a loss, he was a wonderful man and always had a smile, my deepest condolences to Karen and family 🙏*

**Dorie Riordan** - November 01, 2022 at 11:47 AM

LE

*Karen and family,  
my deepest sympathy, Mr. K, will be sadly missed I had him for  
English, and he would come to the Senior Center, and play for our  
birthday party, I would help set up his equipment and help take it down  
he said you are going to make a good roadie, you are hired. my  
thoughts and prays are with you all.*

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**LeeRoy** - November 01, 2022 at 08:28 PM