



Dr. Robert "Ned" Nehls

August 29, 1934 - April 10, 2026

Dr. Robert "Ned" Nehls's life came full circle when the hospice nurse who was with him in his last moments realized Ned was the doctor who had brought her into the world. Dr. Nehls, beloved Butte OB/GYN who delivered thousands of babies in Butte and its surrounding areas, passed away on April 10, 2026 after a brief illness. Dr. Nehls came to Butte in 1965 to take a job at the Murray Clinic, and he never left. He loved Montana, and he especially loved the people of Butte.

Robert Edwin Nehls was born at home in Newark, Ohio on August 29, 1934 to Frederick C. and Mae (MacIntosh) Nehls. The nurse attending his mother said that he looked like a "Ned," and the nickname stuck. Ned was the youngest of three children, with sister Joanna and brother Eugene both more than a decade his senior. A standout football player at Newark High School, Ned was offered a full-ride scholarship to attend and play football at the University of Cincinnati in preparation for his field of study in medicine; he graduated in 1956.

Ned married his high school sweetheart, Nancy Ann Wallace, in Ohio and moved to New Orleans, Louisiana where he attended Tulane University Medical School, graduating with an M.D. on May 30, 1960. Ned relocated his growing family to Columbus, Ohio to complete his internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology and then moved to Butte in 1965. Ned was very

dedicated to his highly distinguished profession and had a rewarding and successful career in OB/GYN in Butte for 33 years.

An outdoorsman at heart, Ned loved every form of and locale for fishing, from the many streams, rivers, and lakes of Montana to ocean fishing in Baja Mexico and Vancouver Island, Canada. He played "Old Ozzie" softball for the East Side Athletic Club and cherished a connection to the earth, planting and harvesting root vegetable crops at his home in Butte.

Ned married Donna Hayes Stolp on December 29, 1999 and they enjoyed many years of harmony and contentment in marriage. Donna and Ned went on many camping and fishing adventures together, shared in each other's families, and supported each other, as well as the six Yorkshire terriers they raised together. Donna and Ned modeled deep affection and loving regard for one another.

In addition to his parents, Ned is preceded in death by his son Aaron Nehls, his infant son Christian Nehls, and his first wife, Nancy (Wallace) Nehls, as well as his sister Joanna Nehls Tracey and brother Eugene Nehls.

He is survived by his wife of over twenty-six years, Donna Nehls of Butte, his son Nathan (Sue) Nehls of Butte, daughter Leighanne (Kerry) Clark of Dillon, daughter Julie (Dean) Klarich of Billings and daughter-in-law, Christine Nehls of Butte, as well as grandchildren Makenzie (Jake) Lewendal, Madeline (Wade) Fellin, Hunter (Chelsea) Clark, Kylie Nehls and Chloe Nehls and four great-grandchildren.

He also leaves behind three stepsons: Jackson (Sue) Stolp of Belgrade, Mike (Darlene) Stolp of San Diego, and Justin (Staci) Stolp of Helena, as well as three step-grandsons, Daniel (Chelsea) Stolp, Jeremy Stolp, and Nathan Stolp, all of San Diego, and a nephew, David Smith and niece, Diane Smith, of

Colorado.

Also close to Ned's heart were dear friends Denny Klemp and Steve Connole, who accompanied Ned on many of his fishing ventures, and Donna's sisters and their husbands, Maggie (Don) Heater and Lesly (Mike) Blend, and other extended family, with whom Ned spent many memorable times.

He will be greatly missed.

A service of remembrance will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, at Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home in Butte at 11:00 a.m.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

SH

“ Donna and family, I am so sorry to hear about Dr. Nehl's passing. He was a wonderful man and so kind and generous to my mom, Sharon Smith. Thinking of you and your family.

Shelley Newbury Hoovestal - May 02 at 11:42 AM

PB

“ By Ned you will be sadly missed you had a hell of run at it almost 100 “ Tight Lines “ I still remember the times we had in the “ Chica” still have it got your picture in there now sure had some good times

Phil Kathy Blaskovich - May 01 at 08:17 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Dr. Robert "Ned" Nehls.



April 29 at 02:53 PM

JM

“ Dr Nels saw Bob and I through four miscarriages. He was so kind and encouraged us to keep trying . When our daughter Kate was born , he handed her to Bob . The nurse wanted to clean her up but Dr said leave her with her dad .” They have waited 6 years for this baby .”

When Jerry came a month early Dr. Nels checked in on him everyday in the hospital.

Dr Nels was a dear friend as well as a fabulous doctor .

Rest in Peace and God bless. Thank you again for being there for us !

Jona McNamee - April 28 at 09:43 PM

MR

“ I am so very sorry for your loss!!!! 39 years ago today Dr. Nehl's helped me deliver my first born child, a sweet little baby girl! It was quite the event as he had to step in and cover for his midwife, Cindy, who was out of town for the weekend! He made me and my husband comfortable the minute he stepped into the birthing room as this was our first time meeting him! He took his cowboy boots off right away and set them aside by the end of my hospital bed. Since I come from a ranching family I knew I was in good hands! Anyway, they were doing construction at St James and the delivery room was busy so that's why they were holding me in the birthing room until the delivery room became available. This birthing room was at the end of the hallway right next to the exit for the stairwell. The doors to the birthing room were wide open and you could see the exit sign and door to the stairwell. In between contractions a construction worker walks into my birthing room and freezes at the sight. My husband and I start chuckling so Dr. Nehl's looks to see what's so funny and he gets a big grin on his face, but before he could say anything the nurse who was getting things ready behind me with her back to the door turned around and told the construction worker that he couldn't be in here while she gently pushed him out to the stairwell door. My husband piped up and said "Can you imagine what that construction worker is going to tell his buddies over a beer tonight!" May all your cherished memories of him keep his spirit alive! RIP Dr. Nehl's!

Melanie and Bill Razor - April 24 at 07:04 PM



“ I loved Dr Nehl's. I was a young woman coming into adulthood/motherhood and very reserved when it came to body things. He was so kind and compassionate. Delivered my child. RIP kind man - you were great in your profession and helped so many young women as we ventured into adulthood...as did your office staff I might add. 🦵💜👍🦋

Charlene Warren - April 18 at 11:40 AM

DS

“ Lots of memories being my doctor when I was going to him. Told me I was having a boy and when I was in delivery what a surprise it was a girl. We laughed. Was always there for me when I needed him for any concerns.

Thinking of you Donna and all of the family. May he rest in peace.

Dee (Muffich) Scalabrin

Dee Scalabrin - April 16 at 04:43 PM

LD

“ So many wonderful memories of Dr Nehls being my doctor even before our three boys! When I had to have a procedure, my husband met him for the first time at Silver Bow General in his Mickey Mouse surgical cap and slippers. He was a little worried :) Greatest doctor ever! Thinking of you Leighanne and Chris and families, God Bless!

Lynn Doherty

Lynn Doherty - April 16 at 03:01 PM

AB

“ I remember
Dr. Nehls very well. He delivered both of my children. A great doctor! Our sympathy and prayers goes to Donna and family.

Annie Bachman - April 16 at 02:28 PM

MD

“ I just read of Dr. Neds passing. He dlivered my youngest daughter over 55 years ago and was so kind to me when miscarriages took 2 other little ones from us. He humored me by singing "Up up and away" with our youngest because I had gained so much weight. Fortunately a lot of the weight went away after delivering a 9 lb 14 oz baby. Butte was so foftunate to have such a great OB doctor there. As a retired RN, I knew just how good he was. My sincere condolunces to the family. May he rest in peace.
Marge Dalzell

Marge Dalzell - April 16 at 02:07 PM

DB

“ Pat and I send our deepest condolences to all the family. Ned was such a great man. Working for and with for many years was a wonderful time for me.

Donna Burns - April 16 at 10:39 AM