



William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr.

June 6, 1954 - February 25, 2025

On February 25, 2025, William Jess Fulton Jr., better known as Bill or "Fingers" passed away in Missoula, MT.

Bill was born to William John Fulton Sr. and Margaret Anderson in Minneapolis, MN, on June 6, 1954. His greatest joy growing up in Bemidji, MN, was terrorizing his sisters Betty, the twins Jean and Joan, and Bea with the help of his brother Rick. He was known to continue that terror into their older years by putting fake snakes in their Christmas presents or giving them "snake bites" on their arms. Bill started his love for walleye and pike fishing at the young age of 5, while fishing with his mom on Grace Lake and Lake Plantagenet.

In high school, Bill was part of the wrestling team and catcher for the baseball team. He graduated from Bemidji High School in 1972. After high school, he attended St Cloud Technical College and received his certification in drafting. In the summer of 1971, he started dating the love of his life, Patty Dow. He eventually asked her to marry him at the carnival after the 4th of July. They were married on August 9, 1975. This year would have been their 50th wedding anniversary.

In 1975 they moved to Butte, MT where Bill began working for UBC as an Assistant Manager in Training. After about 2 years at UBC, he started his career as an union carpenter first with Keltz Construction, then on to Paffhausen Construction, Markovich Construction, Tallon Construction and retired with Sullway Construction at the age of 55. Bill was a very talented

carpenter who loved doing finish work and building furniture. So much of his work can be seen throughout Butte in the homes he built or remodeled to the many businesses he worked on.

After he retired, he started on his lifelong dream of becoming a fish taxidermist. He completed a taxidermy course in Helena where he won several ribbons for his fish. Just like with his carpentry, Bill's talent extended into taxidermy. So, he started his own business, Finger's Fish Taxidermy. Bill shared his love for fishing and hunting with his three children Mindy, Nick and CJ. He took them fishing every summer on Canyon Ferry Lake or Holter Lake. The boys were able to take several trips with him to Wheeler River Lodge in Saskatchewan to fish for Northern pike. He could share so many stories of the hunting trips with them to the Ruby and Freeze Out. He was proud beyond measure watching them grow and start their own families and careers. When all his grandchildren came into his life, he enjoyed traveling to watch them play football, baseball, softball, volleyball, hockey, or dance. Bill will be dearly missed by his family and so many friends who became family.

He is preceded in death by his parents Bill and Peg, his brother Rick, his father and mother in-law Larry and Pat Dow, brother in-laws Larry Novotney, Gary Weyer, and David Dow, and sister in-laws Mary Novotney and Ann Bradely.

Bill is survived by his wife Patty, daughter and son in-law Mindy and Mike Carden; son and daughter in-law Nick and Kim Fulton; son and daughter in-law CJ and Cyndra Fulton; grandchildren Logan and Lilly Carden, Paige and Noelle Fulton, Tucker (Sadie), Chase, and Carter Fulton; sisters Betty Novotney, Jeany Weyer, and Bea Stough; sister and brother in-law Joan and Robert Engle; sister in-law Peg Dow; brother in-laws Larry (Sue) Dow, Dan (Cindy) Dow, and Bob (Mary) Dow; sister-in-law, Patti Fulton, numerous nieces and a nephews; as well as so many friends who are like family.

Please come celebrate Bill's life with his family at the Butte Depot on March 3, 2025 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 3. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (MT)

Butte Depot
818 S. Arizona
Butte, MT 59701

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Bill will always hold a special place in our hearts. He was a such a wonderful and giving man, who shared his joy for the outdoors with family and friends. we are so very sorry for your loss> GODSPEED Bill! Blessings to Patty, Nick, Mindy, CJ their spouse and his beautiful grandchildren. Danene and Marty

Danene L Petritz - March 03, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ He was happy to actually see this fish in Canyon Ferry on one of our trips!
Al and Cindy



Alan McAllister - March 03, 2025 at 11:47 AM

AB

“ Andy Bobst purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..



Andy Bobst - March 01, 2025 at 10:14 AM

RF

“ I will forever treasure the GREAT memories of Bill and our friendship. SO sorry to have it cut so short. My thoughts and prayers remain with Patty & ALL the Family. May GODS Peace and Love hold you ALL close. LOTS of people are going to miss you Bill. I am VERY proud to have called you my friend for 60+ years. RIP Wild Bill.

Ray Fowler - February 28, 2025 at 04:17 PM

RJ

“ Ray J. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..



Ray J. - February 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM

RJ

“ Ray J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..

Ray J. - February 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM

BF

“ Bradley Family purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..



Bradley Family - February 28, 2025 at 02:13 PM

BF

“ Bradley Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..

Bradley Family - February 28, 2025 at 02:13 PM

MB

“ McAllister family /Debra Bock purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..



McAllister family /Debra Bock - February 28, 2025 at 10:58 AM

AM

“ Many great memories, but being able to go out to Bill and Patty's and spend some time with them doesn't get any better. Some camping fishing and the Elk steaks were the best. The way they made you feel so at home was great. I will miss him more than I can say. They don't come any better as a person husband, father and grandfather than him. I was very lucky and honored to be able to call him my friend. RIP old buddy

Bill was one of the best. He treated me (Cindy) like he already knew me. I am glad I got to know him through Al. One fishing trip I was using a beautiful blue lure that was pretty lucky for me. I asked him if I could have it he said "no". I asked several times he still said no. On the day we left he handed me the lure and didn't say a word. I guess his good nature got the best of him. That's the kind of guy he was... May he rest in eternal peace and let the perpetual light shine upon him.

Alan McAllister - February 28, 2025 at 09:27 AM

BD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Bruce Dreyer - February 28, 2025 at 08:48 AM

DE

“ Dave and Tammy Engle purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William Jess "Fingers" Fulton Jr..



Dave and Tammy Engle - February 28, 2025 at 12:31 AM

AS

“ Patty, Mindy, Nick, CJ, and family,
I am so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I will always cherish the memories of our never ending lake shenanigans growing up. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.
Always,
Anna Seely (Kovash)

Anna Seely - February 27, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home - February 27, 2025 at 08:08 PM