



## William Earl Mapes

December 6, 1947 - February 24, 2025

William Earl Mapes passed away Monday evening, February 24, 2025 in a Billings hospital. He was born Saturday, December 6, 1947 in the small mining camp of Coulee, Washington. The family moved to Montana when William was a child and he attended schools in Montana including the orphanage at Twin Bridges. He managed to escape the misery of the Twin Bridges Orphanage and went on to serve his country in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army. following his honorable discharge, he returned to Butte where he worked as a senior service operations technician for M.S.E. and was a member of the staff that developed an improved heat tile for the NASA space shuttles.

William married Karen A Reid in Wallace, Idaho on September 12, 1973 and she preceded him in death on January 10, 2022. Loved ones that welcomed him into heaven would be his sisters Maria, Billie Jean, and Peggy.

William was a very brilliant; compassionate person, heart of gold is an understatement and when he put his mind to something, he got it done. He enjoyed the weekly volleyball games with his co-workers at the Whittier School. He enjoyed archery, hunting and fishing, riding his Harley, playing \$5 in keno machines and visiting with friends while drinking coffee, but family was the most important thing to him. He is survived by his two sons, William Earl Mapes Jr. and Jason Mapes, four grandchildren: Destiny Mapes, Brian Mapes, Hunter Mapes and Dalton Mapes as well as his three great-grandchildren, Aspen Cochran, Landen Mapes and Conrad Mapes. He is also survived by a brother, Bob Rich of Illinois.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be conducted Friday, March 7th at 1 o'clock in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home. Remember to do all things with passion because you never know when it's going to be your last time.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

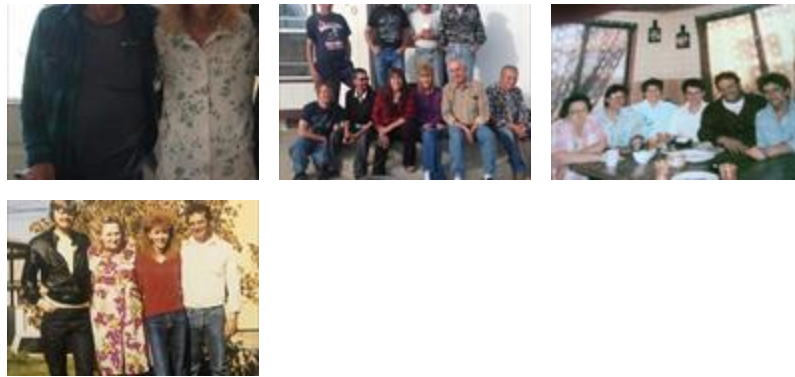
MAR 7. 1:00 PM (MT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album

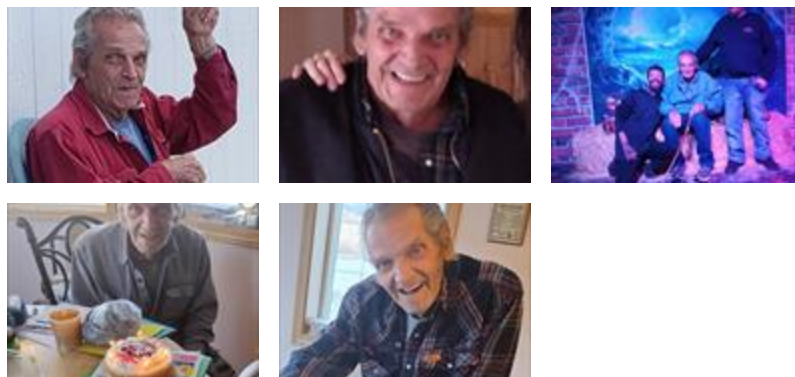


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**Margaret Espinola** - March 06, 2025 at 12:41 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home** - March 04, 2025 at 05:20 PM