



William E. "Bill" Richards

July 3, 1948 - March 25, 2023

William E. "Bill" Richards passed away late Saturday night, March 25, 2023 at the Southwest Montana Veterans Home in Butte with his family at his bedside. He was born in Butte Saturday, July 3, 1948 to Ernest and Violet (Rowe) Richards. He attended Butte schools before joining the United States Marine Corp where he served two tours in Vietnam. Bill received many honors during his military service and most notably was honored with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with palm and frame and bronze star. Following his honorable discharge, Bill returned to Butte where he worked as a Mechanic for Jim Kraut Chevrolet. Bill re-enlisted in the Montana National Guard and eventually took a full-time position in the Guard until his retirement.

He married Helen L. Sundberg in Butte on December 9, 1972 and together they welcomed their only daughter, Janet. This past December they proudly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. There was always a sparkle in his eye when he was able to spend time with his two grandchildren, MacKenzie and Connor.

Bill was a member for the Marine Corp League and a past member of the Teamster's Union. Bill's dedication and service continued into his personal life. He used his love of cars as an outreach to others. Many family and friends share fond memories of their "garage time" with him. He was always willing to help anyone he saw who was in need.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Richards, daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Stephen Coe and grandchildren, MacKenzie and Connor Coe all of Butte.

Also surviving are his brother, Bob Richards of Butte, sisters and brothers-in-law, Donna and Jerry Smith of Butte, Bonnie and Dan Corder of Deer Park, Washington, sisters-in-law, Eileen Eamon, Margie (Joe) Scown and Chris Ketchum all of Butte as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cousins including Joyce James. Besides his parents, Bill is preceded in death by his brother John Richards and sister, Janie Fredrickson.

Cremation has taken place. Memorial services will be conducted Monday morning, April 3rd, 2023 at 11 o'clock in Wayrynen-Richards Funeral Home and entombment will be in Mountain View Cemetery. Memorials can be made to the Southwest Montana Veterans Home or an organization of one's choosing.

“And When He Gets To Heaven, To Saint Peter He Will Tell ‘Just Another Soldier Reporting, Sir, I’ve Served My Time In Hell.’”

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Cemetery

3910 Harrison Avenue
Butte, MT 59701

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM (MT)

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

Tribute Wall

CA

“ I am very sorry to hear that Bill has passed. I have many happy memories chatting with him- he was always so thoughtful and sweet and asked about other people's lives and how they were doing. I feel lucky to have gotten to know Bill over the years and I will miss him very much. My love to Helen and Janet, MacKenzie, Connor, Stephen and all who loved him.



Cari - April 03, 2023 at 10:23 AM

EE

“ Eileen Eamon lit a candle in memory of William E. "Bill" Richards



Eileen Eamon - April 01, 2023 at 07:07 PM

EE

“ Bill was an all around good guy. I have many memories that I will hold in my heart. Camping around Wise River, holiday parties, especially Halloween and Christmas. In the 1970's, watching Bill race in stock car races at Butana Speedway. The good old days and many fun times. Bill was kind and generous to everyone. He had a soft spot for stray animals. Bill loved Helen and Janet unconditionally with all his heart. They were his world. He doted on his beautiful grandchildren, MacKenzie and Conner. They could have anything they wanted for breakfast if grandpa was watching them. Bill was a blessing to my sons and I. He would fix my cars and help us move even if it was across the state,(two times it was). Bill became the brother I never had and wished I had growing up. Thank you for everything, Bill...we will deeply miss you and will honor and cherish our memory of you. Love, your sister in law, Eileen

Eileen Eamon - April 01, 2023 at 06:32 PM

DC

“ I'm so sorry for Helen and Janet and their families' loss. Bill was a great regular guy who despite his truck's sticker that read "Yes, this is my truck, and no, you can't borrow it" would drop whatever he was doing to lend you a hand if you needed it. I, in particular, remember one day when I got our car stuck in the deep snow in the alley behind my house. Bill and I spent most of the morning shovels in hand digging the car out. Thank you, Bill for every thing you gave to everybody including your outstanding service to your country - you will be missed! Semper Fi.

Doug Coe

Doug Coe - March 30, 2023 at 12:28 PM