

Obituary

Died: Saturday, October 15, 2011

Leroy 'Lefty' Olesen

STEVENSVILLE - Leroy 'Lefty' Olesen passed away peacefully at his home Oct. 15, 2011 in Stevensville. Lefty was born March 24, 1930 in Stanford to John and Mamie Olesen.

The family moved to White Sulphur Springs in 1936 where Lefty attended high school and graduated in 1948. He grew up on the ranch with his brothers and sisters and as a young man he had a love for the outdoors, hunting and fishing for the family and for pleasure with his younger brother Lars (Jack) and their beloved dogs.

Lefty joined the United States Navy in August of 1950 and served as Damage Controlman third class on the USS Rochester during the Korean Campaign. He went on to complete his service on the USS Haven where his unit was recognized with the Presidential Unit Citation for exceptional meritorious service and heroism.

After returning stateside, Lefty went to work in Alaska for Morrison Knutson building the Denali highway. He then returned to Montana from Alaska and met his wife of 25 years, Ree (Nopper) Woodbeck. They started their family in White Sulphur Springs later relocating to Helena. Lefty went on to specialize and operate heavy construction equipment as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 44.

Lefty retired in 1985 and went on to follow his passion for fly fishing. He spent many hours on Montana's rivers with his close friends and family searching for the big one.

Lefty is survived by his two children Greg Olesen, Pasco, Wash. and Debbie (Olesen) Mackaman, Stevensville; his grandson Derrick; his siblings John, Manhattan, Lars (Jack), Darby, Betty Marcotte, Anaconda, Leona Odland, Bozeman; and numerous nieces and nephews. Lefty was preceded in death by his brother Howard and sisters Louise Jean and Florence.

Graveside services will be held at Fort Harrison Veterans Memorial in Helena on Friday, Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m. Reception for family and friends will be held immediately following at the American Legion, 3095 Villard, Helena.

Family suggests memorials be sent to Human Society of Western Montana, 5930 Highway 93 South, Missoula MT, 59801 or the Disabled Veterans of America, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, OH 45250, Attn: Gift Processing.

Read more:

http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/obituaries/article_66c116d0-f9fb-11e0-952f-001cc4c002e0.html#ixzz1bFH0NZ6b

Service Summary

- Service details not available -