

Curtis Hanson – BS 1970 Pharmacy

Curtis "Curt" Walter Hanson, 79, Manhattan, MT, passed away peacefully in the early morning hours on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, with his family by his side.

Curt was born on Aug. 8, 1945, in Fargo, North Dakota, to Walter & Ethel (Ehlers) Hanson. He joined his brother Lowell, who was 5 years older. He grew up in Enderlin, North Dakota, where he became a proud Eagle Scout and was very active in many high school sports and band, earning several letters before graduating in 1963.

Following high school, Curt attended the University of North Dakota, where he got a degree in Biology & Chemistry. He then went to North Dakota State University School of Pharmacy, which started his lifelong passion for medicine & pharmaceuticals. Even in his final days, he was sharing his knowledge with his doctors, nurses and aides that cared for him.

In 1969 he met Linda Wirth at the White Drug in Fargo, where they were both working, and on June 20, 1970, they were married. They moved to Cupertino, California, and Yakima, Washington, before moving to Ames, Iowa where their only child, Jennifer, was born in 1976. The family moved briefly to Helena, then Alexandria and Fergus Falls, Minnesota, where Curt & Linda opened The Medicine Shoppe pharmacy.

After several years of owning the drug store they decided to move West again. In 1985 they moved to the Gallatin Valley, where he remained until his passing. Curt worked for Roche Labs as a pharmaceutical salesman for 25 years, traveling throughout Montana and Wyoming calling on doctors and hospitals. After retiring he worked part time at the Costco pharmacy in Bozeman.

Curt had many hobbies throughout his life, including fishing, hunting, gun collecting, photography, riding his Harley, bird watching, camping, traveling & golf. He had a huge appreciation of classic cars and owned many over his lifetime. His favorites were his black & white '57 Chevy & his '69 Road Runner. He loved sharing stories of his old "hot rods" and he kicked himself every time he talked about selling them. Curt's greatest joys came in 2005 and 2008, when his grandsons Rylan and Jack were born. Papa Curt absolutely loved being a grandpa! He shared his fondness for the outdoors with the boys and the three of them often shared stories about fishing, hunting, guns and cars. He was the boys' number one fan, always attending their football, basketball & baseball games over the years. He was so proud of his family and wasn't shy in letting everyone know that.

Curt is survived by his wife, Linda, of Manhattan; daughter & son-in-law Jennifer & Alan McCollim & grandsons Rylan & Jack, all of Belgrade; brother Lowell & sister-in-law Shirley of Clancy; and numerous cousins, nieces & nephews. He is also survived by his little sidekick, his Yorkie, Carlee Sue, who misses his lap dearly.

He is preceded in death by his parents Walt & Ethel.

Our family would like to thank the staff at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, who took such great care of Curt during his last four weeks. We will forever be grateful for all the compassion and thoughtfulness that we all were given during such a difficult time.

As per Curt's request, there will be no services & cremation has taken place.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service.