

JERRY MARTIN KENNEDY

October 30, 1943 ~ March 22, 2024 (age 80)

Jerry Martin Kennedy, a stalwart figure of Albany and Platte County, Wyoming, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2024, at the age of 80. Born on Saturday, October 30, 1943, to Dorothy Marguerite (Quirk) Kennedy and William Henry Kennedy, Jerry was raised on the family's Vale and Dodge Creek Ranches. His father homesteaded the land more than 100 years ago and it sits 40 miles west of Wheatland and 38 miles east of Rock River, Wyoming.

Throughout his life, Jerry remained deeply connected to his roots as an Albany County rancher. He was not just a resident, but a cornerstone of the community, known for his unwavering dedication and multifaceted contributions. Jerry's impact extended far and wide, reflecting his diverse array of roles and responsibilities.

As a big game outfitter and guide, Jerry shared his love for the outdoors with countless individuals, fostering unforgettable experiences in Wyoming's rugged landscapes. His commitment to preserving the land was further demonstrated through his involvement with the Albany County Weed & Pest, where he served diligently from 1973 to 2001.

Jerry's civic engagement was exemplary, evident in his tenure as an Albany County Commissioner until 2018, and his invaluable service for 47 years as a BLM Fire Guard and Wildland Fire Fighter in the Laramie Peak and Sybille Fire Zones. His dedication to public safety extended to his role as the Governor-appointed Wyolink radio communications project manager, where he played a pivotal role in enhancing emergency response capabilities.

Beyond his public service, Jerry was deeply involved in various community organizations, including the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Albany County Stockgrowers, NRA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Wheatland Masonic Lodge #16, and the Wheatland Grazing Association. His commitment to his community was unwavering, whether working with the United States Census Bureau or contributing to projects such as the University of Wyoming water collection initiative.

Jerry's skills as a mechanic and machinist were legendary, honed over years of hands-on experience and under the watchful tutelage of Fritz Drube during his high school years. From his meticulous restoration of a 1981 Chevrolet K30 pickup to his role in constructing numerous buildings on the family ranch, Jerry's craftsmanship left an indelible mark on his home and Albany County. He learned how to work with, respect and use dynamite as a tool while the Tunnel Road was being built in 1954. He wore many hats but none as memorable as his orange BLM firefighter hard hat. That hat saved his life many times over. It will always be a great reminder of him as a loving husband, father, dad, brother, grandpa, great leader, and dear friend.

In his personal life, Jerry cherished his family above all else. He and his wife were married for 54 years and together they raised two sons, Gary and Marty. One of his favorite people, childhood friend and cousin is Gerry Elizabeth Kennedy-Gifford. They spent hours getting into trouble together and racing around in a chopped-up Model A Ford as adventure loving youngsters. They remained extremely close to the day of Jerry's passing.

Jerry is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Evelyn Kennedy, on September 2, 2020; as well as his parents, Dorothy Kennedy, on January 16, 1978, and William Kennedy, on July 13, 1983; and brother, Gene Kennedy, on December 29, 2017.

He is survived by his sons, Marty Kennedy and Gary (Karri-Ada) Kennedy; along with grandchildren, Carson of Denver, Colorado, Colter of Casper, Wyoming, and Jeremiah Rogers of Sayre, Pennsylvania; and great-grandchildren, John Rogers Jr. of Phillips, Wisconsin and Kylee Rogers of Sayre.

He always had a smile and a friendly hello for everyone he'd see.

Jerry will be remembered, not only for his myriad accomplishments, but also for his steadfast integrity, his enduring work ethic, and his profound love for his family, friends, and community. His willingness to lend a helping hand will never be forgotten. His legacy of kindness will continue to inspire all those who were fortunate enough to know him. Our father, friend and one-of-a-kind cowboy will be deeply missed and forever loved.

A memorial service to celebrate Jerry's life will be held at The Bell, 677 Sybille Creek Road, near Wheatland, Wyoming on Wednesday, April 3, 2024. Viewing will be from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. with the memorial service to begin at 1:00 P.M. Afterwards, the procession will travel to the Wheatland Cemetery for interment. A reception will be held at The Bell afterwards.

Pallbearers for services are Richard Hook, Lyndon Miller, Lee Johnson, Bob Wilson, Jerry Hildebrand, and Barry Foster. Honorary pallbearers are Bill Wanaka and Dan Smith.

Donations may be made in honor/in memory of Jerry M. Kennedy to The Marge Cares Foundation, PO Box 86, Glendo Wyoming 82213, or to The Shriner's Childrens Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah (donate.lovetotherescue.org/give) and would be appreciated by the family.

