

NO PHOTO Nye, Howard Theodore

Bozeman, MT

382nd Inf Co H

Howard Theodore Nye, 79, of Bozeman, passed away peacefully at his Bozeman home on Thursday evening, Oct. 7, 2004, surrounded by his family and the love of God.

Howard was born in Missoula on May 21, 1925, to Howard and Ellen (Barstad) Nye. He was raised in Dixon, and, at the age of 10, he began trailing sheep to the mountains for his father's sheep ranch.

In 1943, he graduated from Dixon High School and enlisted in the Army, serving during World War II with the 96th Division (Company H) of the 382nd Infantry in the Philippines (Leyte). He was awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for heroism in the Battle of Okinawa. Pfc.

Upon his discharge from the Army in January of 1946, Howard returned to the family ranch near Dixon. In 1951, with Jean and their children Linda and Paul, he moved to Kalispell where he owned and operated the Marshall Wells hardware store. In 1964, he purchased the Culligan dealership and moved to Bozeman.

In 1980, he married his beloved wife Betty. Together, they began a new adventure with Howard's two children and Betty's six children, Cheryl, Twila, Dale, Greg, Cathy and David. Jointly, Howard and Betty began and operated Nye's Clothesline on Main Street in Bozeman from 1985 to the present.

Howard is survived by his wife, Betty; his sons and their wives, Paul and Tammy Nye, Dale and Debbie Hadford, Greg and Virginia Hadford, and David and Annie Hadford; and his daughters and their husbands, Linda (Nye) and Mick O'Connor, Cheryl (Hadford) and Charlie Lytle, Cathy (Hadford) and Denny Dellwo, and Twila Vick and Wayne Vick; a sister, Ruth Stephens of Missoula. He was the proud grandfather of 23 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Howard was a man of great compassion, decency, fairness, and fun. His passion for storytelling and conjuring wondrous events from his daily experiences, often focusing on his ranching and military days, was one of his most enduring qualities. These values are his legacy to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His jovial laugh and heartfelt love of people will be remembered by all who knew him.

A memorial service was held Monday, Oct. 11 at Cremation or Funeral Gallery in Belgrade. Memorials may be made to Bozeman Deaconess Hospice, 915 Highland Blvd, Bozeman, MT 59715.