

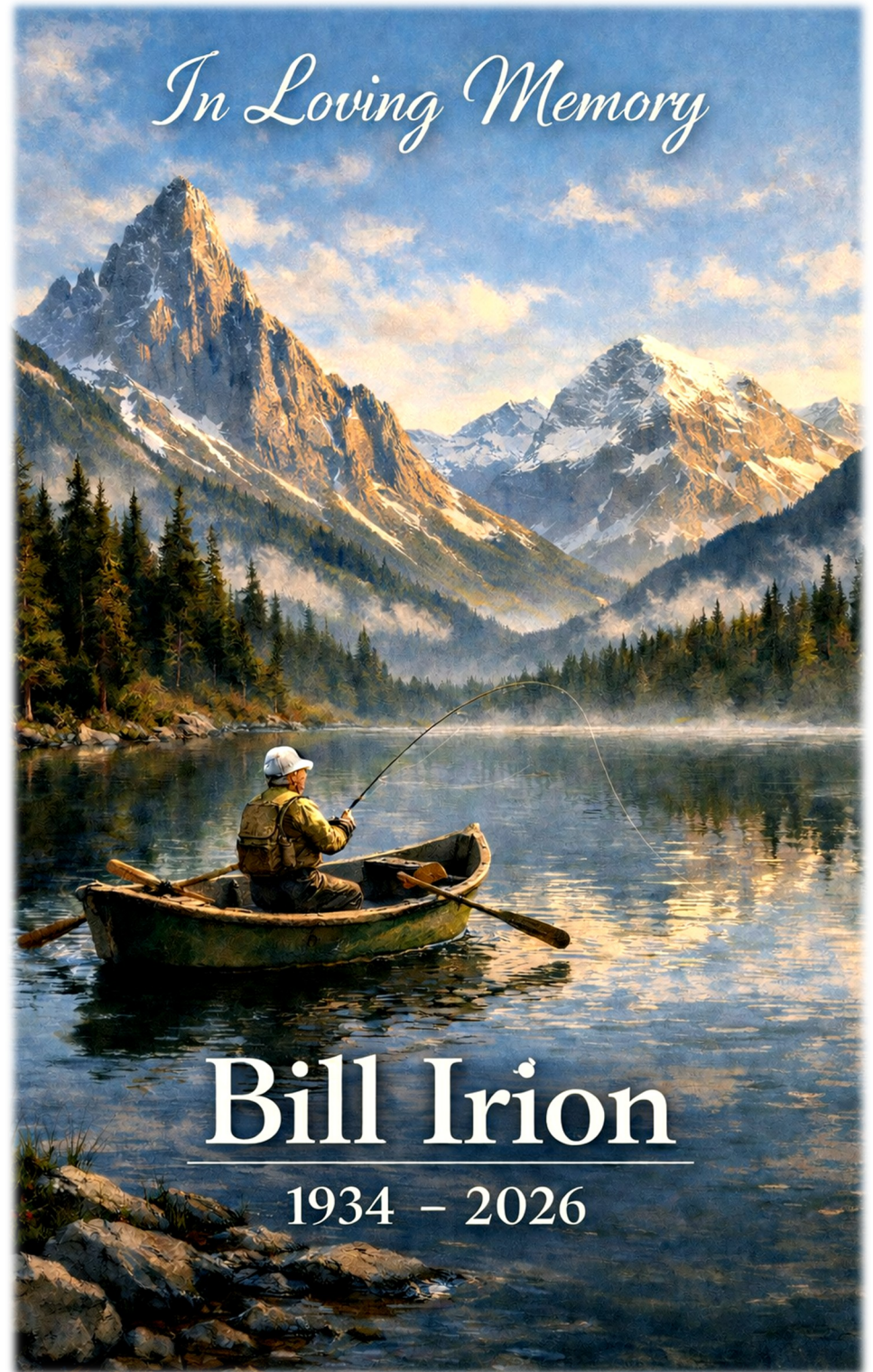
Gone Fishin'

I've finished life's chores
assigned to me,
So put me on a boat
headed out to sea.
Please send along my fishing pole
For I've been invited
to the fishin' hole.

Where every day is a day to fish,
To fill your heart with every wish.
Don't worry, or feel sad for me,
I'm fishin' with the Master of the sea.

We will miss each other for awhile,
But you will come and bring your smile.
That won't be long you will see,
Till we're together you and me.

To all of those that think of me,
Be happy as I go out to sea.
If others wonder why I'm missin',
Just tell 'em I've gone fishin'



In Loving Memory

Bill Irion

1934 – 2026



Willard Norman Irion, lovingly known as “Bill,” a cherished individual known for his kind, loving, caring, and humorous personality, left us on April 9, 2026. Born on December 3, 1934, Bill lived a life filled with tremendous passion for people, animals, and the outdoors, and service towards others.

Bill was born on the farm near Fredonia, North Dakota to parents of German descent, Otto Irion and Anna Haag. He was one of five children and on the farm he learned the value of family, faith, and fortitude. These values carried him throughout life and sustained him through obstacles and achievements. Growing up in a rural setting, Bill always enjoyed all that the outdoors had to offer, including hunting, fishing, hauling bales, and milking cows. He graduated from Kulm School and married Alice Mayer. Together, they moved to Montana, where they deeply enjoyed the beauty and outdoor

life. In 1959, Bill joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany as a warehouse parts specialist. Bill’s children from his marriage to Alice Irion include Rodney Dale Irion (1960–2018) and Carolyn Ann Leingang. Bill later married Mary (Dussault) and shared a blended family.

In Montana, Bill managed grocery stores, and he and Mary later moved to Idaho where they owned their own store and lived in the mountains he so treasured. When Bill retired, it allowed him more time to focus on being a better hunter than his friends, but actually he became a better cook at the hunting cabin for all his buddies. His loyalty and commitment were evident in his lifelong friendships. He enjoyed traveling, especially to national parks, and loved camping, hiking, skiing, golfing and outside work. His greatest joy, besides golfing, hunting, camping, and fishing were his grandchildren. Grandpa Bill was known for his playful spirit and his love for adventures with his grandchildren. Whether it was fishing at the lake, golfing with them, or taking them for ice cream, he was always creating fun. He often caught his limit and loved telling fishing stories. He also found much pleasure in reading broadly and in sharing books with others. He was known for reading a book a day and finished many puzzles. His mind was always sharp and full of fun and love.

The benediction: “Go into the world with a daring and tender heart. The world is waiting for you. Go in peace and may all that you do be done because of love.” Bill was the very embodiment of that blessing.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Carolyn (Alvin) Leingang; his grandchildren, Kellie Kvislen, Katie Kvislen, Joshua Kvislen, Brooke (Jayson)Knight, his brother, Gordon (Kathy) Irion; Dawn (Irion) (Trevor) Sanders, Kyle Kvislen, Linda Mattingly, Diane Hawkins, Matt Mattingly, Susan Hadley.; numerous nieces nephews and his favorite dog, Copper.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Anna Irion; his siblings, Eugene Irion, Florence Schlecht, and Adeline Dobler; his wife, Mary Irion; his son, Rodney Irion and step-son, Tommy Mattingly.

Memorial Service

1:00 PM, Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Weigel Funeral Home

Mandan, North Dakota

Officiant

Pastor Adam Barden

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BILL IRION

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

First Song

“When I Get Where I’m Going” by Brad Paisley

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Readings

Psalm 23

John 14:1-6

Sermon

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of Intercession

L: God of mercy

C: *Hear our prayer*

Lord's Prayer

Last Song

“Go Rest High on That Mountain” by Vince Gill

Commendation

Dismissal

Graveside Service

2:00 PM

North Dakota Veterans Cemetery

Mandan, North Dakota

***The family invites you for food & fellowship
at Rusty’s Saloon & Grill in St. Anthony
following the burial service.***
