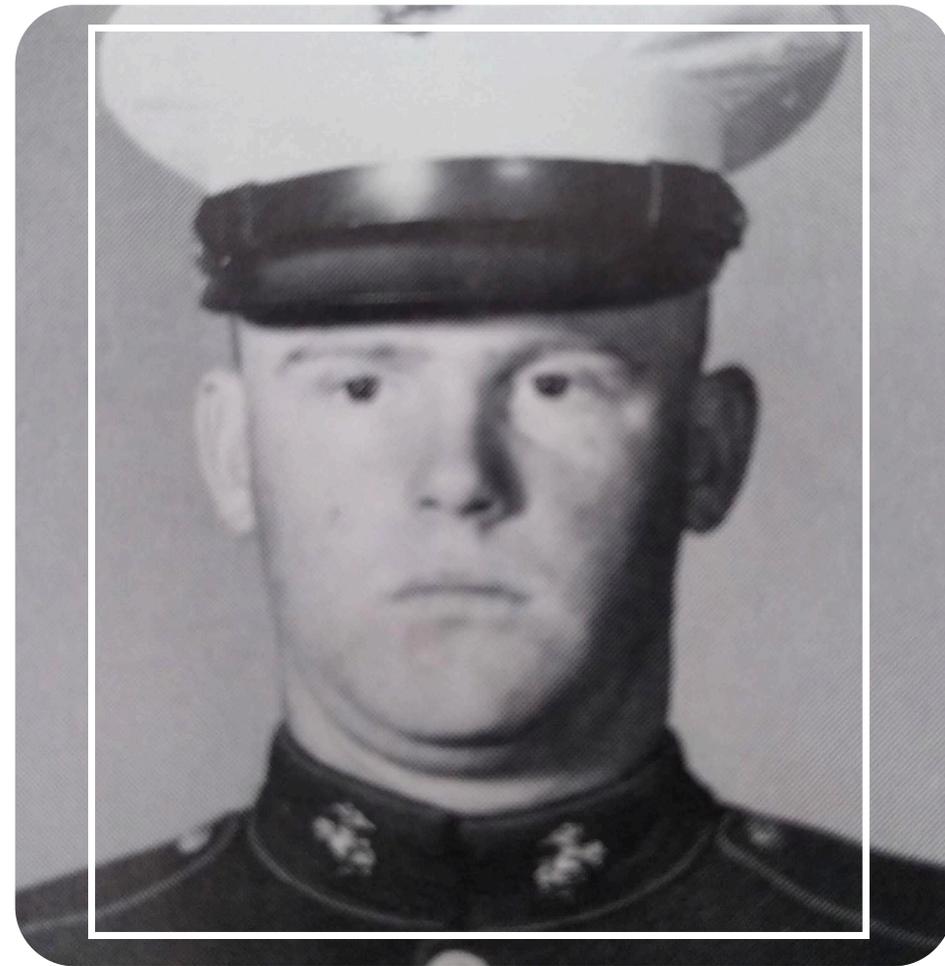




Edward (Ed) Wayne Eldridge, 77, passed away on May 7, 2025, at the Spearfish Canyon Healthcare in Spearfish, South Dakota. A proud veteran, devoted family man, and hardworking individual, Ed leaves behind a legacy of dedication, service, and love. Born on November 12, 1947, in Gillette, Wyoming, Ed was the son of Wayne K. Eldridge and Marjorie Hubbard Eldridge McKenzie. He graduated from Campbell County High School in Gillette as part of the Class of 1966. Shortly after graduation, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. From August 11, 1966, to February 6, 1970, Ed served with honor and distinction. His military service took him to Vietnam and Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. During his time in Vietnam, he was wounded twice—on March 31 and again on May 18, 1968—and was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Gold Star for his bravery and sacrifice. Ed remained deeply proud of his service throughout his life. After returning home from military duty, Ed dedicated himself to both work and family. He enjoyed working alongside his father, brothers, brother-in-law, and sons at Eldridge Excavating Inc., where he demonstrated the same honesty and dedication that defined every aspect of his life. Ranching was another passion that connected him to the land and community he loved. Ed was a proud member of the American Legion Post 42, Gillette, the VFW Post 7756, Gillette, the Moose Lodge 1957, Gillette, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Family was at the heart of everything Ed did. He is survived by his beloved wife Linda K. Eldridge; sons Jim Eldridge and Wayne “Skip” Eldridge (Michelle); daughter Christine “Tina” McAteer (Joe); sisters Juanetta Cook (Bart) and Deanne Dinsmoore (Doug); eleven grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Wayne K. Eldridge; mother Marjorie Hubbard Eldridge McKenzie; brothers Dave Eldridge and Donald Eldridge; grandparents Ned and Leora Hubbard and William and Alice Eldridge; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. Ed found joy in spending time with his children and grandchildren—moments that brought warmth to his days and strength to those around him. His values of fairness, honesty, hard work, and patriotism were evident in all he did. May Edward Wayne Eldridge’s memory bring comfort to all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to the American Legion Post 42, the VFW Post 7756, your favorite military charity, or consider planting a tree in Ed’s memory—a living tribute to a life rooted in service and love. Memorials and condolences may be sent in care of Gillette Memorial Chapel 210 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed at [www.gilletteremorialchapel.com](http://www.gilletteremorialchapel.com)



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
**EDWARD W. ELDRIDGE**



NOVEMBER 12, 1947-MAY 7, 2025



Rita Mashak | Tara Aanonson  
Funeral Service - Monuments -  
Advance Planning - Cremation -  
Lending Library. Learning to say  
goodbye; children's tour.



PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO SHARE  
A LOVING MEMORY OR TRIBUTE.



## Loving a Marine

Loving a marine is not always gay, for with the price you pay  
It's mostly loving, but not to hold its being young and feeling old.  
It's sending a letter with an upside-down stamp, to a faraway lover in a  
faraway camp, Being in love with merely your dream. Bring thoughts of  
heaven where love light gleams. You wish it were possible for him  
to phone, You want him to say, "I'm on my way home." And  
when he comes in, the laughing together- unconscious of people,  
of time and weather, It's having him whisper his love for you, Its  
whispering back that you love him too. Then comes the kiss a promise  
of love, knowing your watched by God above. Reluctantly,  
painfully, letting him go. While you're dying inside, wanting him so.  
Days go by, no mail for a spell. You want the word that he is well,  
and when a letter comes, you share with joy and act like a child  
with a shiny new toy It's loving a Marine, the boy you adore and  
hating the world, yourself the war. And its going to church to kneel  
in pray and really meaning the things you say And though you  
know that he's far away, You love him more and more each day.  
Loving a Marine is bitterness and tears Its loneliness,  
sadness and unfounded fears No loving a Marine is really no fun  
But its worth the price when the battle is won.

-Edward Eldridge

## Graveside Service

11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 17, 2025

Mount Pisgah Cemetery

### Officiant

Lee Yake

### Music

"Marine Hymn"

"Daddy Don't You Walk So Fast"

### Casketbearers

Wayne "Skip" Eldridge \* Joe McAteer \* Dan Ault

Jake Cooper \* Bryan Renken \* Ryan Renken

Addison Eldridge \* Kaleb Eldridge

### Honorary Casketbearers

Jim Eldridge \* Anyssa Eldridge \* Kelsey Follick

Thomas Stanley \* Mathew McAteer \* Amy McAteer

Sydney McAteer \* Ashley Pruitt \* Brittany Murphy \* Asia Eldridge

### Military Honors

American Legion Post #42

Honor Guard

*The family extends an invitation to a reception and time  
of fellowship at the Moose Lodge following interment.*

