

Memorial Service

1:00 p.m. Friday, December 19, 2025
New Life Wesleyan Church
Gillette, Wyoming

Officiant

Pastor Gordon Harper

Songs

“Silent Night”
“Hallelujah”

Musician

Ethan Melgaard

Urnbearers

Christopher Eischeid Jr.



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memory or tribute.



RITA MASHAK | TARA AANONSON
TARA COWGER
FUNERAL SERVICE-MONUMENTS-
ADVANCE PLANNING-CREMATION-
LENDING LIBRARY, LEARNING TO SAY
GOODBYE; CHILDREN'S TOUR.

Forever In Our Hearts

Fill not your hearts with

pain and sorrow,

but remember me

in every tomorrow.

Remember the sky,

the laughter, the smiles,

I've only gone to rest a while.

Although my leaving causes

pain and grief,

my going has eased my hurt

and given me relief!

So dry your eyes and remember me.

Not as I am now,

but as I used to be.

I will remember you all

and look on with a smile.

Understand, in your hearts

I've only gone to rest a while.

As long as I have the love

of each of you,

I can live my life

in the hearts of all of you.



IN LOVING MEMORY



John Earl Melgaard Sr.

AUGUST 5, 1956

-

DECEMBER 12, 2025

OBITUARY

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of John Earl Melgaard Sr., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. Born on August 5, 1956, in Crosby, North Dakota to Alvin Einer and Doris Elaine (Alden) Melgaard. John lived a life marked by hard work, dedication, and an unwavering love for his family. He passed away surrounded by his loved ones at his residence in Gillette, Wyoming, on December 12, 2025. John's formative years were spent in Columbus, North Dakota, until 1968, when his family relocated to Biddle, Montana, eventually settled in Gillette, Wyoming, in 1972. With a strong foundation from Campbell County High School, from which he graduated in 1974, John's industrious spirit led him to embrace various careers. From 1966 to 1973, he worked on multiple ranches and farms, developing a steadfast work ethic that would remain with him throughout his life. His passion for heavy equipment blossomed between 1973 and 1980 while he contributed his skills to several companies. In 1987, this dedication culminated in the formation of Melgaard Construction, a venture that stood as a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit. In 2014, he expanded his horizons by purchasing American Ranch, further solidifying his legacy in the community. John's personal life was enriched by his deep affection for his family. He met Mary Jane Elmore, and together they embarked on a lifelong journey of love and partnership, culminating in their marriage at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Together they were blessed with three children: John (Tracy) Melgaard Jr., and Kari (Chris) Eischeid, of Gillette, WY and Melissa (Nevets) Bronson of Dunnellon, FL.,

along with his ten grandchildren; Emily, John, Ethan, Kaleb, Christopher, Devon, Noah, Ella Kait, Blake and Charlie, served as the greatest joys and proudest accomplishments of his life. John also had a son, Brad (Rauni) Long, grandsons Jordon and Jacob, and a great-grandson Asher, prior to his marriage. John cherished these relationships, always eager to impart wisdom and share in the simple pleasures of family gatherings. His generous and caring disposition extended beyond his immediate family. He held a unique bond with his siblings, Beth (Larry) Klaassen, Gary (Jaci) Melgaard, and Leah (Arlyn) Magnuson, whose relationships were marked by lifelong camaraderie and support. As a member of both New Life Wesleyan and Red Mountain Community Church in Mesa, Arizona, John forged lasting connections with his community, embodying a spirit of kindness and inspiration that touched all who had the pleasure of knowing him. John was preceded in death by his parents, Alvin and Doris Melgaard and his grandparents. While John Earl Melgaard Sr.'s presence will be profoundly missed, his legacy of love, hard work, and devotion will continue to resonate in the hearts of family, friends, and community members alike. A memorial service honoring his remarkable life will be held on 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 19, 2025, at New Life Church in Gillette, Wyoming, where all who knew and loved him are welcome to gather in remembrance of a truly extraordinary man. Memorials can be sent to Gillette Memorial Chapel 210 W. 5th St. Gillette, WY 82716. Condolences may also be expressed on John's obituary page via www.gillette Memorial Chapel.com. The memorial service will be livestreamed, and viewers can access this by John's obituary page on the day of service.

