



## Russell Hatler

September 4, 1942 - September 19, 2023

The world lost an amazing man in the early morning of September 19, 2023. With very heavy hearts, my sister Lyn Bratton and I sadly share that our dad, Russ Hatler, died quite suddenly in his sleep that morning. It came as such a shock to us all. If you ever met Russ, you'd never forget him. He was larger than life. A true legend. Although he was a top computer programmer (definitely a "Dinosaur") he never forgot his roots as a Montana farm boy. He taught his daughters the importance of hard work, dedication, integrity, and perseverance, and he never let them forget that they were from "sturdy peasant stock."

He had an amazing imagination and was a gifted writer and poet, having penned several novels and hundreds of poems, many for birthdays and other important occasions for the people he loved. He also had a great, though often "NSFW" (Not Safe For Work) sense of humor, and you had to be careful not to encourage his jokes if anyone nearby was easily offended.

He was a dedicated dad who was free with sage advice and had endless wisdom to share. He was a fun-loving grandpa, not just to my kids but to their friends as well, and he really got a kick out of the great grandkids as they came along in recent years.

He loved his games of chance, in fact, if there isn't a casino in heaven, he will

build one. He loved his beers and his sports teams, but he loved his family most of all. He was a great, great man and he will be sorely missed. If you're so inclined, please raise a Heineken as a toast to the legend that was our dad, and everybody's friend, Russ Hatler.

He was 81 years old and is survived by his two daughters, Debbie Clayton (Tom), their children, Joe, Alison, and Donovan; Lyn Bratton (Matt); his devoted wife, Mary Ann, and her children Susan DuBois and Howard Coley; his brothers, Gaylord, Donald, and Gerald. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mary Esther, and Caleb Hatler

# Tribute Wall

LH

“ Sorry to hear of Russell's passing. I remember a family gathering we had one time in a park in Fort Benton, Montana. A few of us decided to hop in a car a cruise downtown Fort Benton. There was a slight rain shower happening. An older black car approached us from the other lane. As it got closer we could see that the car had no windshield, but the windshield wiper was working. As the driver approached us, he stuck out his hand through the front and gave us a big wave. You guessed it. Cousin Russell and his sense of humor. Condolences to his family.  
Chelli and Loren Hansen

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**Loren Hansen** - September 22, 2023 at 04:57 PM

GH

*The gathering was post Gram Hatler's 100th and for Mom's 80th... great memories.*

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**Gerald Hatler** - September 25, 2023 at 09:15 PM

LH

“ So sorry to hear the passing of my dear cousin Russell. It has been many years since I last saw him. Have a lot of memories of him and his family living in Fort Shaw Montana. His Dad was my Dads big brother. May he rest in eternal peace. Love to y'all  
Larry Hatler and family. Pensacola Fl.

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**Larry Hatler** - September 22, 2023 at 03:39 PM

LJ

“ We are sorry to hear of Russ dying. He was one of our nephews and we enjoyed being around him. We haven't seen him for many years but we want to let his family how much he meant to us. I am only 5 years older than he is so we had a lot of fun growing up together. Love, Lynn and Steve Jackson

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**Lynn & Steve Jackson** - September 21, 2023 at 08:42 PM