



## Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle

January 21, 1943 - March 12, 2026

Wayne McGonigle passed away peacefully on March 12, 2026, following a difficult and courageous battle with ALS at the age of 83.

Wayne was born to William & Beatrice McGonigle on January 21, 1943 on a bitterly cold day on the farm near Winter, Saskatchewan. Delivered by his grandmother the midwife, it was obvious there were health concerns at birth. The doctor was fetched by horse and cutter and charged the price of 2 frozen ducks. In 1945 Wayne's family moved to Alberta, where he spent the remainder of his life living within various communities & hamlets of the Foothills County.

Born with Spina Bifida, Wayne spent many years in and out of hospital as a child. He walked with crutches and was easily recognized in the community. The crutches were a part of him but didn't define or limit him. Wayne was strong, determined & resilient, no matter the challenge, he adapted and found a way.

Horses played a central role in Wayne's life from the very beginning. His earliest memory was being with his father while hauling grain in a wagon. He recalled seeing the hind quarters of two horses walking up the ramp into the elevator at Winter. Wayne often said that, his horses were his legs and they became a lifelong passion. He was truly a cowboy at heart.

Growing up he was rarely far from his horse and rode almost everywhere – riding to school and visiting friends and family. It was not unusual for him to ride from Turner Valley to Cochrane to visit the cousins. Through the many stories he shared, it's clear he was a mischievous child, known for playing pranks such as tipping outhouses or teaching his pony, Midnight to play dead along the highway so passing drivers thought the horse had been hit – Only for Wayne and Midnight to jump up and ride away laughing.

Wayne began his early career with Calgary Power before finding his calling in real estate, where he built a successful career serving the Turner Valley, Black Diamond & greater Foothills area. It was while working at Calgary Power he met his wife Shirley. They married in 1967 and together they built their home and life, raising their 3 children in Turner Valley before eventually moving to their farm near Longview. They were solid, loving and caring parents who showed great pride and joy in their children and grandchildren.

Wayne shared his passion for horses by organizing a local “Riding Club,” where he taught horsemanship & gymkhana skills to youth eager to learn. He enjoyed being involved in his community and for 43 years served as a marshal of the Diamond Valley Parade, and later the Longview Parade. He was often called upon to emcee family and community events, and volunteered for the Christmas bird count and at the Bar U Ranch.

Following the devastating loss of Shirley in 2006, Wayne reconnected with his long-time friend Vicky, and they were married in 2015. They have spent these past 14 years providing each other with love, support and companionship.

Wayne was known as a strong, proud and steady man (some might say stubborn) who valued family, long-time friendships and a good western movie. He has always been known as a fighter and showed that this past few years

when his health began to decline. "Give up" was not in his vocabulary right to the end. He was a natural storyteller and enjoyed writing poetry, birding, camping, riding in the mountains, and spending time with family and friends.

The grandkids all called him "Papa". His grandson describes him as "always putting family first and himself second." Papa was one of their biggest supporters. Whether it meant going to their school events or games or simply calling afterward to ask how it went, he always made it clear that he cared. He took a genuine interest in every part of their life. He passed forward his skills and knowledge of fishing, hunting, equine and knife sharpening. He also had a special way of making holidays magical, playing along with the spirit of Santa and the Easter Bunny. Most of all, Papa made sure they never felt anything less than deeply loved.

Wayne especially loved when family and friends gathered at the farm to camp, celebrate holidays and milestones such as birthdays, graduations and a wedding. His stories, laughter and steady presence will be dearly missed, but the values he passed on and the memories he created will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

Wayne often said -"God gave us memories so we might have roses in winter". We're grateful he gave us a lot of roses. Thank you.

Wayne was predeceased by his parents, William and Beatrice McGonigle; his wife, Shirley; their stillborn daughter, Mary; his sister Gail Goss; and his brothers Ronald and Raymond McGonigle.

He is lovingly remembered by his spouse Vicky McGonigle; his children Gary (Tammy) McGonigle, Colleen (Steve) Dougan and Corinne (Michael) Wight and grandchildren Shaun, Kathryn (Austin), Morgan (Ashley), Nolan, Lily and

Riley. Wayne also leaves behind a special great-grandson, Hudson and his sister Janice McGonigle, along with many extended family members; nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. He loved you all.

In keeping with Wayne's wishes, a private family burial will take place at Foothills Cemetery. A celebration of Wayne's life will be held in the summer, with details to be shared with family and friends at a later date. If desired donations in Wayne's memory may be made to the Foothills Country Hospice.

"Keep your feet in the stirrups and your mind in the middle and we'll see you on down the trail" "Till we meet again" – Wayne McGonigle

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass) 403.652.4242.

# Tribute Wall



“ Carolyn Sandstrom lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**Carolyn Sandstrom** - April 01 at 06:02 PM

SG

“ My condolences to the families of Wayne! May fond memories help ease your pain. I will remember Wayne for his calm and jovial nature.

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**Sandra Grenwich** - March 30 at 10:51 PM

LB

“ I met and worked with Wayne at Team Realty almost 30 years ago. He was a wonderful mentor and a lot of ways, certainly through real estate but also through personal council, which surprised me at the time as I didn't expect him to care as much as he genuinely did. I have nothing but fond memories of Wayne McGonigle and will cherish my memory of him always. My profound condolences to his family, I can only imagine the hole that he is leaving behind with his passing. I will always remember him as an important person in my history.

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**Laurelea Burritt** - March 28 at 06:24 PM

EL

“ Dear Gary, Colleen and Corinne,  
We are deeply saddened for the loss to your families. Uncle Wayne was a steady and constant pillar in our younger lives and in the lives of our extended family. Always there to tell a story, offer a wink or share his passion and help us to ride a horse. I remember holiday trips fondly as well as so many family weddings and reunions together. I know he will be missed greatly and we are sending our love. Elaine McGonigle & Christian Steinbock

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**Elaine** - March 26 at 09:55 PM

CC

“ Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**Cathy Couey** - March 25 at 10:40 AM

DM

“ Don & Joanne McCuaig lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**Don & Joanne McCuaig** - March 19 at 10:04 AM

DM

“ Don & Joanne McCuaig lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**Don & Joanne McCuaig** - March 19 at 10:03 AM

LC

“ Lynda Cowling lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**lynda Cowling** - March 17 at 08:15 PM

GH

“ Dear Gary, Colleen and Corinne and your families

*We were deeply saddened to hear that your dad had passed. Wayne was the most eloquent person we knew. It didn't matter if it was a story told around the kitchen table or a speech at a wedding, he could paint pictures and produce movies with just his words and his sense of humor. We will all miss those stories so very much.*

*Love Uncle Louis and Aunt Glenda*



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**Glenda Hagel** - March 16 at 11:08 PM

TD

“ Dear McGonigle family,

*I am deeply saddened to hear of your dad's passing. It has been many years since I last saw Wayne, but I still hold fond memories of him. I can vividly recall him calling out toward the hills and watching the horses come running to him — such a simple, beautiful moment, and one I've never forgotten.*

*Please accept my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time. My thoughts are with all of you.*

*Kind regards,  
Tracy (Carnegie) Drinnan*

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**Tracy Drinnan** - March 16 at 09:37 PM

KF

“ Karen Foley lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



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**Karen Foley** - March 16 at 08:48 PM

WS

“ Wayne went to the Turner Valley School as I did. I clearly remember him riding his Shetland Pony to and from the school. In recent years we connected and he really enjoyed my paintings. He encouraged and critiqued! I learned he had hunting trips on horseback with my Father and stepbrother. Wayne was admirable regarding his courage and strength dealing with his physical challenges. His post on Facebook sharing his diagnoses surely demonstrated his thoughtfulness and care for others.

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**wanda stuart** - March 16 at 08:33 PM

MD

“ *Marv Davidson lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle*



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**Marv Davidson** - March 13 at 05:10 PM

LM

“ *Lydia MacNeil lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle*



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**Lydia MacNeil** - March 13 at 02:15 PM

LM

*Deepest sympathy to all his family.*

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**Lydia MacNeil** - March 13 at 02:16 PM

JJ

“ *We have thought of your Dad these past few months his on journey has been a long and difficult one. We are so sorry for your loss, our thoughts and prayers are with you . It was a previledge to know your Dad and to get to know his family.*  
*Joyce & Jim*

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**Joyce & Jim** - March 13 at 01:41 PM

JR

“ Jane And Joe Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



Jane and Joe Russell - March 13 at 12:52 PM

AW

“ Deepest condolences to all of the family. We knew Wayne for many years and always enjoyed visiting with him. Unfailingly smiling and cheerful, he will be fondly remembered. Alexis and John

Alexis Wiigs - March 13 at 12:16 AM

MW

“ Gary, Colleen, Coleen and families.....lots of many happy memories with your dad and mom. From riding horses, to getting stuck in the river inside our vehicles while we were all on a picnic. Condolences to you all. R.I.P. Wayne. Godspeed.

Marcia Ayrey Webster - March 12 at 08:23 PM

MW

“ Marcia Ayrey Webster lit a candle in memory of Mr. D. Wayne McGonigle



Marcia Ayrey Webster - March 12 at 08:23 PM

KL

“ *Kathy Lambourn lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
D. Wayne McGonigle*



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**Kathy Lambourn** - March 12 at 07:03 PM