



Celebrating The Life Of Ron Stellingwerf “Boxhead”

May 23, 1945 - February 13, 2026

Time moves forward.

*Memories stay alive in the
rhythms of water, casting lines,
and the silence between casts.*

Ronald H. Stellingwerf, affectionately known as “Boxhead,” passed away on February 13, 2026. He was born May 23, 1945, to Harry and Steffi Stellingwerf and was raised in Billings, Montana along with his older sister, Patricia.

After graduating from high school in 1963, Ron began his first part-time Forest Service job as a fire lookout in Slate Creek, Idaho. He went on to attend the University of Montana in Missoula, earning a bachelor’s degree in Forestry in 1971. Following graduation, he married his wife Kathy and they returned to Slate Creek, Idaho, for a full-time position with the Forest Service thus beginning his life long career.

In 1975, they began building their family with the arrival of their first son, Kenneth. Two years later, in 1977, they happily welcomed their second son, Kevin.

Ron dedicated 40 years with the Forest Service, living and serving in several communities throughout his career, including Slate Creek, Idaho; Wisdom, Montana; Camp Crook and Lemmon, South Dakota; Sheridan, Montana; and eventually Sheridan, Wyoming. He retired on September 3, 2005 from the Bighorn National Forest in Sheridan, Wyoming, as the Resource Staff Officer closing a career marked by hard work, integrity, and a deep respect for the land he loved. On September 4, 2005, Ron proudly announced he had perfected retirement.

On April 7, 2000, Ron married Julia Jones Watson, and together they blended their family of five children. Ron’s life was rooted in the outdoors. He found great joy in fishing, especially fly fishing—hunting, skeet shooting, and time spent in nature. In quieter moments, he enjoyed tying flies, reloading shells, reading, and crafting beautiful custom fishing rods for family and friends. As much as he loved the outdoors, nothing meant more to Ron than his family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Steffi Stellingwerf; his sister, Patricia Olson (Sage); his son, Christopher Watson; his mother-in-law, Patricia Jones; his brother-in-law, Patrick Jones; his grandson, Braxton Quinn; his niece, Laurie Spika; and his nephew, James Jones.

Ron is survived his wife, Julia; his children, Kenneth Stellingwerf, Kevin Stellingwerf (Shannon), Kacey Mallinson (Trent), and Jenny Watson Thom. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren, Brady, Brianna, Brooke, Robert, Brittle, Mollie, William, Daniel, Noah, Riley, Jerek, and Kaylia; and his great-grandchildren, Ashton, Josie, Waylon, James, Elliott, Ella, Leanna, and Isabella, who is due March 23rd. He is further survived by his brothers-in-law, Sage Olson and Dennis Jones (Jennifer); his sister-in-law, Jennifer Konrad (Dale); niece Teri (Todd) Wilson and last, but certainly not least, his trusty best friend and hunting companion, his dog, Gauge.

Ron will be remembered for his steady character, strong morals, and deep love for family, friends, and the outdoors. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, the traditions he passed down, and the wild places he so faithfully served and protected.



HEAVEN'S FISHING HOLE

For years, the riverbank was where
Your soul felt most at peace
Your heart was most content when there
With the fish and the geese
But then, your spirit came to rest
Where angels chose to roam
And once equipped with ten pound test
You made yourself at home.

The sky became your deep blue sea
The clouds became your shore
And there, for all eternity
You sat with friends galore
Each angel was a fisherman
Who had traded his pole
For golden wings and a game plan
At Heaven's Fishing Hole.

In Loving Memory Of *Ronald Harry Stellingwerf*

Saturday, February 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM
Sportsmen's Association Gun Club

OFFICIATING
Les VandenBos

MUSIC
This World Is Not My Home
Take My Hand, Precious Lord
How Do I Say Good Bye

HONORARY PALLBEARERS
Sage Olson, Hal Quist, Herb Williams, Ken Stellingwerf
Kevin Stellingwerf, Trent Mallinson, Jim Deboer
Craig Thomas, Bill Heitler, Dennis Jones, Christopher Watson
Braxton Quinn, James Jones & Patrick Jones

A luncheon to immediately follow the service.

Inurnment will take place at Sullivan Cemetery,
Winthrop, Washington at a later date.

