



Paul B. Bates, better known to his friends and loved ones as Bud, passed away on May 25, 2007 with his family by his side. He was living at Big Sky Nursing home in Helena, Montana.

Bud was born at the family homestead on the banks of the Madison River near Greycliff on January 11, 1921, to Paul B. Bates, Sr. and Alma Holgate Bates. He went to grade school at Fort Ellis and Central Park and graduated from Manhattan High School. Thereafter, he joined the Army on December 5th, 1942 where he served with distinction in the artillery and achieved marksmanship status, serving in the Pacific Theater during World War Two where he earned the Philippine Liberation Medal.

Later, Bud was stationed at Port Townsend, Washington in Battery D at Fort Warden and then served both in the Philippines and in Korea. He was discharged from service with the highest honors on March 10th, 1946.

Bud married Agnes Walbert Roe at the home of the Reverend Charles H. Hauk, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, in Three Forks on February 13th, 1949. Bud & Aggie lived in Three Forks and he labored with his father and brother-in-law, Floyd Rash, dry land farming in Clarkston, Montana in the Horseshoe Hills in northern Gallatin County. Bud & Aggie later moved to Bozeman where Bud was employed with Brence Service Station and later at the Cinema Theatres on Main Street as a custodian. Bud eventually worked at the Service Department at Montana State University where he ended his labors in the service of others.

In November of 1987, Paul & Mary Ellen Inabnit started their journey together, and in the process, he inherited yet another 5 step-children into his life: Debra Strege, Dan and Carrie Spence, Scott and Shawn Spence, & Dawn Williams along with four grandchildren & 2 great grandchildren. Bud & Mary purchased a motor home and traveled the United States of America for three years. This was a grand adventure for Bud as he had only traveled outside of Gallatin County when he was in the military service and for a few short day trips. After their tour, they settled in Three Forks. Bud was active with the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and as a member of the United Methodist Church. Bud will always be remembered for his gentile, kind ways in every encounter with his fellow human beings.

Bud was preceded in death not only by his beloved wife, Aggie, but also by his parents, his sister Billie Lee Fonk, (Ed), and a step daughter, Diane Haynes. He is survived by his stepson, Ernie Roe, and Ernie's wife, Fatima; his sisters, Evelyn Andres of Columbus, Texas and her family; Betty Rash of Bozeman, Montana, and her daughters. Bud's nieces, Eleanor Gover (Leon), and Joan Droppers (David), and their families in the Gallatin Valley & in the Seattle area. He is also survived by Billie's children, Terry, Larry, and Barry Fonk and Cathy (Stan) Smith.

Gravesite services will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens on a date to be Announced. Donations may be made to Hospice at St Peter's in Helena, or a donation of your choice.