



*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. The cords of the grave coiled around me; the shares of death confronted me. In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him into his ears. ....*

*He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the Lord was my support. He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.*

Psalm 18: 1-6, 16-19



High Flight  
John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the sky on laughter -  
silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and  
joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds — and done a  
hundred things  
You have not dreamed of — wheeled and  
soared and swung  
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there  
I've chased the shouting wind  
along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air.  
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,  
I've topped the wind-swept heights  
with easy grace  
Where never lark, or even eagle flew —  
And, while with silent, lifting mind, I've trod  
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.*

Magee died in World War II



## *In Loving Memory Of*



*Bert Steppler  
August 19, 1950  
November 18, 2009*

# Bert Stepler

## Born

*August 19, 1950*

*Sidney, Montana*

## Died

*November 18, 2009*

*Sidney, Montana*

## Funeral Services

*10:00 A.M.*

*Saturday, November 21, 2009*

*Culbertson High School Gym*

*Culbertson, Montana*

## Officiating

*Pastor Al Beyer*

*Trinity Lutheran Church*

## Music

*Trinity Lutheran Men's Choir*

*Laura June Beck Gy Salvevold*

## Casketbearers

*Duane Hekkel Dan Halley*

*Jim Buckley Bill Buckley*

*Denny Palmer Mike Irigoien*

## Honorary Casketbearers

*Wonderful family, friends, neighbors,*

*and Charlie Creek Jaycees*

*Cliff Sowle*

## Ushers

*Tom Miller Jim Salvevold*

*Bob Anderson Kevin Martin*

## Interment

*Stepler Ranch*

*Charlie Creek, Montana*

*Lunch will be served in the high  
school cafeteria following services*

*Remembrances and condolences may  
be shared with the family at  
[www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com)*



Bert LeRoy Stepler was born on a frosty day, August 19, 1950, in Sidney, MT, to Cal and Jane (Sallaberry) Stepler. He was the second of three children. Bert attended Mona School throughout his elementary years and graduated at the top of his class – a class of one. He attended Culbertson High School, graduating in 1968. Bert then attended Montana State University Bozeman and graduated from Billings Vo-Tech College in 1971. A short time later he obtained his private pilot's license.

Following college, he returned to the family farm and ranch in the Mona Community where he lived and worked with his dad and brother. In early 1979, Bert met Kris Kjelgaard, originally from south of Wolf Point, who was teaching in Fairview. It didn't take long for Bert to decide that he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her, and they were married on November 24, 1979. They lived at Andes until they built their new home at Mona. Bert and Kris were blessed with three children during their years together - Verlin (1980), Cody (1982), and Loni (1984).

As a child, Bert was a member of the St. Bernard's Catholic Church. He was also on the Charlie Creek baseball team. During his high school years he was active in basketball, football, FFA, and choir. As an adult, he enjoyed the Charlie Creek Jaycees, Trinity Lutheran Church Men's

Choir, Richland County Weed District, Culbertson School Board, Elmdale Community softball, and being a Hunter's Safety Instructor.

His passions in life were first and foremost his wife and three children, flying, hunting, horses, quality cattle, straight fences, and his farm and ranch lifestyle. His falls and winters were filled with following the Culbertson basketball and football teams - especially watching his children's games and working on the "chain gang." In recent years, Bert's sons Verlin and Cody returned to live and work on the family farm and ranch, and Bert was proud that they decided to continue the family tradition. God, family, friends, good neighbors, Ford pickups, and John Deere equipment have helped to hold everything together throughout the years.

We will miss Bert's smile, laugh, jokes, stories, willingness to help anyone, heated discussions (arguments), hard work ethic, perfectionism, and his ability to be a jack of all trades. He loved much and is loved much.

Bert died peacefully on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, at the Sidney Health Center in Sidney, MT, following complications from a stroke.

Bert is survived by his wife, Kris; sons, Verlin (Kayla Barentsen) Stepler, and Cody Stepler, all of Culbertson, MT; a daughter, Loni Stepler, Williston, ND; father, Cal Stepler, Culbertson, MT; brother, Dean (Doris) Stepler, Culbertson, MT; sister, Sharon Stepler, Billings, MT; his aunt, Frances Stepler, Elmdale, MT; nephew, Wes (Lisa) Stepler, Culbertson, MT; great nephew, Cal Stepler, Culbertson, MT; nieces, Cara (Nick) Dalbey, Federal Way, WA, Shannon (Nate) Yonts, Salt Lake City, UT; Kyla (Dan Koler) Stepler, Billings, MT; mother-in-law, Hazel Kjelgaard, Wolf Point, MT; brother-in-law, Dave (Sylvia) Kjelgaard, Wolf Point, MT; and numerous double cousins.

Bert was preceded in death by his mother, Jane Stepler; maternal grandparents, Bert and Marie Sallaberry; paternal grandparents, Roy and Clara Stepler; his aunt, Irene (Stepler) Freebury; his uncle, David Stepler; father-in-law, Arnold Kjelgaard; and a close friend, Verlin Martin.