



Harlan Dean Woolard

April 9, 1953 - August 21, 2026

Casper, Wyoming

Harlan Dean Woolard died in Casper on August 21, 2026. He was seventy-three. Born there on April 9, 1953, he grew up knowing oil as a rumor that paid and a pickup as a set of honest problems. He learned engines the way other boys learned baseball statistics. A well, he believed, was a set of honest problems. People were harder, but he liked them anyway.

He ran a pumper's route off the highway for most of his adult life. He did not advertise. He did not need to. Word moved along the rail: Hank will tell you if you do not need the part. He kept a handwritten ledger and a jar of extra fuses. He hired a neighbor's kid every summer and taught him that a gauge is not a suggestion. When the catalogs arrived with televisions in the waiting rooms, he kept the radio on an AM station and a pot of coffee that was never quite fresh and never empty.

He married Denise Woolard in 1975. They raised two sons in a house with a garage that was cleaner than the living room. Denise worked at the clinic. Harlan grilled on Sundays and considered a Saturday in the hills a civic duty. After the field slowed he still came out when a neighbor's well pump died, moving slower, charging less.

Customers remember a man who wiped his hands before he shook yours, who would jump a battery at dusk without calling it a favor, and who could diagnose a knock from the curb. He liked the North Platte at evening, a green-chile cheeseburger on a rare trip to town, and a church he stood through in the back because his knees had opinions. He died in Casper, the high dry town that had always been home. The route is down. A lot of wells in the county still run because he was stubborn about a job.

Services

A memorial in Casper. The family welcomes stories in the hall, and a contribution to a youth trades program if you insist on doing something extra.

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