Raymond Albert Lundby, age 62, of Miles City, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2002, at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings.

Every firefighter knows that one small ember has the potential to settle into the undergrowth, quietly glowing, and gain stren-gth and speed, until it can no longer be contained. Ray was a humble man, glowing with goodness, reaching out, spreading the spark of his humor, the warmth of his smile, and the fire of his friendship to all he met. While the ember has been extinguished, his warmth continues to spread.

Ray was born on Feb. 12, 1940, in Miles City to Greta (Minnich) and Raymond George Lundby. He attended schools in Miles City and graduated from Custer County High School in 1958. On Feb. 11, 1961, Ray and Helen Fulton were married and made their home in Miles City. Just before his 22nd birthday, on Feb. 8, 1962, Ray joined the Army, where he served in Germany until his honorable discharge, on Jan. 31, 1965.

After his return home, Ray worked for NAPA, Motor Service, Custer Motors and became a part-time firefighter. On March 1, 1971, Ray went to work full time as a firefighter and mechanic. In 1986, he took the job as the Department of State Lands rural fire coordinator. The accomplishment of which he was most proud was the formation of the County Assist Team, which was formed to coordinate large firefighting efforts.

Ray enjoyed many outdoor activities. Above all, he valued family, cherishing every moment spent with them, playing with his grandchildren and hunting and fishing with his sons.

Ray is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Helen, of Miles City; two sons, Quinn and his wife, Susan Lundby of Billings, and Cameron and his wife, Karen Lundby of Miles City; his daughter, Rosalie Lundby of Broadus; two brothers, Christian Lundby of Miles City, and Harlan Lundby of Billings; his sister, Maureen Secrest of Crow Agency; and seven grandchildren, all whom adored him. He was preceded in death by his grandparents and his parents, Greta and Raymond Lundby.

Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, with the family receiving friends at Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday at the First Lutheran Church in Miles City. Interment will follow in the family lot at the Custer county Cemetery. Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home of Miles City is in charge of the arrangements.

Should friends desire, memorials may be made to the Ray Lundby Scholarship Fund, c/o Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home, 1717 Main St., Miles City, MT 59301, or the charity of one's choice.