

**Early Life:** He was born August 29, 1936, in Chicago, Illinois, to Edward and Helen Coots. He grew up on a ranch in Illinois where he spent his younger years competing in rodeo and exploring the countryside on horseback.

**Life's Work/Service/Interests:** In 1954, John joined the United States Air Force where he served at Walker Air Force Base, Roswell, New Mexico. He continued serving in the Air Force Reserves in Southern California until 1962. While in California, he met his wife Patricia. They were married September 27, 1961. They were blessed with the birth of a daughter in 1968. John became a motorcycle mechanic and spent most weekends racing motorcycles in numerous desert races including the Baja 500 and 1000. John also apprenticed as an auto and equipment mechanic. The family moved to Kemmerer, Wyoming, in 1974, where he worked for Andy's Ford and Holler Construction. He spent much of his time at Joe's Ranch with his horses and helping out on cattle drives. John enjoyed all types of hunting and fishing and went on many horseback pack trips. In 1978, John then moved his family to Hamilton, Montana, where he worked as a mechanic for Bell McCall. He held other mechanic jobs over the years, eventually working for M & M Trans & Auto and remained there until he retired in 2008. He spent most weekends exploring, hunting, fishing and camping in every canyon in the Bitterroot Valley with his family and two grandsons. Over the years, they moved from Hamilton to Stevensville, then to Connor, Montana, where they lost their home to the fires of 2000. They then moved back to Stevensville. John enjoyed eating, socializing and helping out at the Stevensville Senior Center. John Charles Coots, of Stevensville, Montana, passed away Saturday, March 19, 2016, surrounded by family at Community Medical Center after a short battle with cancer. He was 79.

**Survived By:** His daughter, Jackie (Shane) Schipporeit; grandsons: Cody (Amanda) Schrantz, Philip (Dezeray) Schrantz; and four great-grandchildren: Brystal, Carter, Gwendolyn and Easton.

**Preceded In Death By:** His wife and parents.

**Services:** Stevensville Senior Center | Private graveside service

**Obituary Published By:**

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