



Memorial Grove 2015 Honorees



Verdie H. Allies



Verdie H. Allies age 87, first generation American and longtime Sargent Community resident, passed away on January 9, 2015 in Monte Vista, CO. Verdie was born on February 22, 1927. Verdie was raised near Montrose, CO where he attended a three room school house through eighth grade and Montrose High School. He worked on his father's sheep ranch as a camp cook from the age of 10. At 17, he joined the Navy in World War II served with the SEABEE'S in the Philippines and was attached to the USS Mt. McKinley which was General MacArthur's flag ship. He was called back to military service for the duration of the Korean War from July 1951 – January 1953. He returned to Montrose to help run the family ranch. He married Ella Jane Spor, June 1, 1951; they raised seven children and were married for 54 years until her death.

He worked for the Forest Service on the Rio Grande Forest for 28 years as the supervisor overseeing the building of campgrounds; trails and roads; fighting forest fire throughout the west, and finally running the maintenance shop before retiring in 1984. He traveled to both of his parents' homelands to meet relatives; his father's in the Basque Pyrenees and his mother's in Sweden. Verdie was a very talented wood-worker and an artist, which occupied his spare time until his early 80's. Through the years he would come up with all kinds of projects to keep his seven children busy like an angle worm farm or raising Christmas trees.

Odean M. Borgen



Odean M. Borgen died on September 4, 2015. He was born Nov. 2, 1930, in Veblen, SD. He was a General District Assistant and Fire Management Assistant on the Custer District of the Black Hills National Forest. A Custer resident for most of his life, Odean attended Custer schools and graduated from Custer High School in 1950. His life reflects a history of community service to Custer, both as a volunteer ambulance driver and fireman in the Custer Fire Department.

He had a great appreciation for life in the Black Hills and a preference for "out-of-doors" work and recreation. After retiring from the Forest Service in 1982, Odean enjoyed ranching, hunting and fishing. He served his country in the National Guard and was stationed in Alaska during the Korean War. Odean is survived by his wonderful family and many close friends.

Frederick E. (Fred) Buhr



Frederick E. Buhr, 63, of Lakewood, passed away on January 10, 2015. Fred was born on October 30, 1951, in Raton, NM.

Following high school, he joined the United States Navy and served for 12 years. From 1970 to 1982, Fred was a sonar technician and made the rank of Chief at the remarkable age of 26 years old. After his military service, Fred was offered a job with the Forest Service. This launched him into a satisfying career that took him across multiple states and offered many interesting challenges as the agency's dependency on communication increased. After 30 years, he retired as the National Frequency Manager in 2012.

Fred had many hobbies and interests over the years and enjoyed volunteer work in Lakewood and Jefferson County. He is survived by his wife, Susan; two sons, Jeff and Wade; and daughter, Ellen; and three grandchildren, Faith, Jadin, and Joseph.

Charles S. (Chuck) Calkins



Charles S. (Chuck) Calkins, 81, of Cheyenne died Sept. 30, 2015. He was born Dec. 11, 1933, in Detroit, MI. He graduated from Evanston Township High School in Illinois, Beloit College, and Duke University School of Forestry. He married Janet Layman June 30, 1956 in Evanston, IL.

He began his career in forestry and fire management in 1957 as forester in Dubois, WY and then went to the Medicine Bow in Encampment, WY as Assistant Ranger. In 1961 he transferred to the Eagle District of the White River. He became the District Ranger in Saratoga, WY in 1967 and ten years later transferred to Durango, where he represented the Region in Aviation and Fire Management. In 1985 he moved to the BLM in the Wyoming State Office, again in Aviation and Fire Management. He served as Safety Officer on an Interregional Fire Team. He retired in 1993.

He and Janet enjoyed family camping trips in the Snowy Range and motor home travels around the country. He was an avid sports fan. In addition to his wife, Janet, he is survived by three daughters, Debby, Karen, and Julie; and one son, Chuck; and seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Gladyse Marie Dilley



Longtime Del Norte resident **Gladyse Marie Dilley**, 87, passed away on December 11, 2015. She was born on September 2, 1928 in Olustee, OK. She married Donald Gene Dilley on November 8, 1947 in Taos, NM. For many years, she worked in education, banking, and then went to work for the Forest Service.

Gladyse enjoyed flowers, especially tending to her Iris and gladiolas; she always had a garden and loved to be outside. She had a deep love for animals, especially her white mule, Lucy. She cooked for many hunting camps and camping trips to help with the family business. She loved family picnics and sharing homemade ice cream with her family. She enjoyed fishing in the ocean in Mexico, her husband would drive the boat and she would catch Yellow Fin Tuna.

Gladyse was mother to two daughters, Barbara and Carol; and two sons, Billy Joe and Ronnie. Her world was being grandmother to ten and great-grandmother to fifteen.

Clyde Duren Jr.



Clyde Duren Jr. of Homer, AK died on January 7, 2015. He was 92. He was born in Trinidad, CO on November 19, 1922.

At the age of 17, he enlisted the Army Air Corps and was a prisoner of war from 1942-1945, surviving both the Bataan Death March and a prison camp in Japan. While convalescing from the ravages of war, he attended college and received an AAS in Cadastral Surveying. Clyde was the Region 2 Cadastral Surveyor from 1961 to the late 70's, when he left and became the Chief and Director of Cadastral Survey for the State of Alaska. His sons remember many years living in field camps as children.

Clyde is survived by sister, Shirley; and brother, Don; his two sons, Gregory and Gary; and three grandsons, Matt, Mike, and Andrew; and was especially proud of his three great-grandchildren, Michaela, Samantha and Jacob.

Helen M. Estep



Helen M. Estep of Montrose passed away on July 19, 2015 at her residence at the age of 78. Helen was born in Norwood, CO on July 28, 1936. She spent most of her childhood in Montrose, where she also attended school. She was a Personnel Assistant for the Forest Service on the Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F.s.

Helen was a volunteer at the local hospital and care center for many years and also worked at the Ute Museum in Montrose. She was an avid traveler, and enjoyed crocheting and reading.

Helen is survived by brothers, J.D. and Al; and sister, Joyce; and many nieces and great nieces and nephews.

Lisa Ann Fisher



Lisa Ann Fisher passed away on June 17, 2015 after a 25 year valiant battle with an auto-immune disease. She was born on February 2, 1959. Lisa's passion for the outdoors drew her to a career with the National Park Service and the Forest Service. She had a degree in Forestry and Recreation Management from the University of Montana. She worked at the Glen Canyon N.R.A., Bryce Canyon N.P., and Everglades N.P. She was foreman on the El Dorado Hotshot Crew and was humbled when presented with a Marine Corps shovel and "challenge coin" after training marines at Camp Pendleton. She then decided to accept a law enforcement officer job on the Inyo N.F. and then to the Deschutes/Ochoco N.F.s.

In her last move to Golden, CO she was Assistant Director in the National Job Corps Office. She was deeply inspired by the students and leaves behind a legacy of strong and compassionate leadership. She was a gifted athlete and enjoyed competitive marathons, swimming, softball, basketball, running, hiking, and water skiing. She was passionate about triathlons and cycling. She is survived by her partner, Margot Bucholtz, who is a current R2 employee.

Robert (Bob) G. Gnam



Robert (Bob) G. Gnam passed away on June 17, 2015 in Grand Junction, CO, at the age of 91. He was born on November 16, 1923 in Cheyenne, WY. He served six years in the Navy from 1941 to 1947. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with a degree in Geology and married Vivian L. Oien June 28, 1952. They moved to Utah and he worked for Shell Oil Company. In 1954, he started a 24-year career with the Forest Service in Denver as Mining Claims Examiner, and then as Branch Chief, covering all the National Forests in Region 2.

He retired from the Forest Service in 1978. Bob had a short stint with AMAX Molybdenum, then he and Vivian traveled around the United States, Canada, and Mexico for several years before settling in the ranching community of Lewis, Colorado. In the mid 1990's they moved to Grand Junction with a great view of the Grand Mesa. He loved his profession and the wilderness. Even in retirement he carried canvas bags, a pick, and a shovel in his car and truck. He was always looking for the interesting rock formations and mineral specimens. He is survived by three daughters, Cynthia, Valerie, and Jennifer; two grandsons, Nikola and Zachary; two granddaughters, Jacquelynn and Jeska; and one great-granddaughter Raegan.

Rosye “Maxine” Hartman Humrich



Rosye “Maxine” Hartman Humrich, 91, of Lebanon, IN passed away peacefully at her home on Tuesday, March 31, 2015. Maxine was born January 3, 1924, in Sedalia, MO. She married Dale Raymond Humrich on Sept. 21, 1943 in Estes Park, CO. Maxine served in World War II as a medical technician.

She worked for the Forest Service as an auditor in the Regional Office. After retiring, she worked in public schools as a secretary and also worked on the United States Census. Maxine loved to play the piano, sew, cook and write letters to friends and family. She is survived by daughter, J. Darlene; and son, David; and her greatest joy was her grandchildren, Christopher, Cindy Lynn, and Ronald, nine great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

James Robert "Zeke" Hylle



James Robert "Zeke" Hylle, 69, passed away on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, in Casa Grande, AZ. Jim was born on August 16, 1945, in Miller, SD. He grew up in Custer, with his six brothers and sisters and graduated from high school in 1963. He attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, and Black Hills State College in Spearfish. He married Marjorie O'Brien in 1968 and they divorced in 1991. He then married Marie Miles on St. Patrick's Day 2001.

He retired in 2002, after a 37-year career with the Forest Service in the Black Hills N.F. He was the Forest Fleet Manager when he retired.

His last 13 years were spent fully enjoying his retirement by playing lots of golf and spending time with his family and friends. His easy smile and laid back attitude will be missed by all. Survivors include his wife, Marie; his daughters, Colleen and Katie; and son, Shaun; his stepdaughter, Marjorie; his nine grandchildren; two sisters; and four brothers.

William O. (Bill) Kinney



William O. (Bill) Kinney died on September 24, 2015 in Arvada, CO. Bill was born on December 2, 1922 and married Juanita on October 12, 1944. He served during World War 2. Bill worked in the Regional Sign Shop in both Monument and Denver, and then worked as an Automotive Equipment Specialist in the Regional Office, prior to retiring in 1982. He is survived by his wife, Juanita.

Clinton D. (Clint) Kyhl

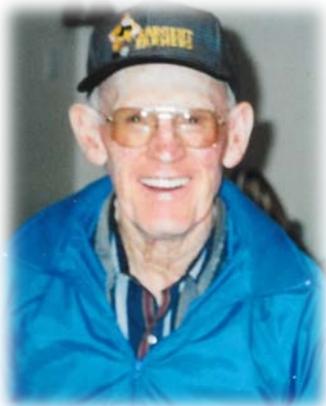


Clinton D. (Clint) Kyhl, 54, passed on February 16, 2015 after facing the disease ALS, like everything else in his life, with courage and grace. He was born on November 29, 1960 in Ft. Rucker, AL and was raised in Iowa. Clint graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in Forestry in 1983 and moved to Colorado where he met the love of his life, Sharon Abrahamson. They married on December 27, 1986.

Clint served over thirty years with the Forest Service in Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Washington. He worked on the Routt, White River, Pike San Isabel N.F.s. He was ranger on the Nebraska and Medicine Bow –Routt N. F.s and led of the Bark Beetle Incident Management Team. From 2009-2013, he was the Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Okanogan-Wenatchee N. F. and then the Forest Supervisor for the Bridger-Teton N.F. He approached his work with a quiet strength and brought wisdom and creativity to the work he did and the people he served.

While Clint loved his work, he was just as passionate about his faith, family and friends. He was happiest outside enjoying the beauty of nature with those he loved. Clint would often say on a beautiful Sunday morning, “Today, I’d rather have the boys out fishing and thinking about God, than sitting in church thinking about fishing.” He was an avid hunter, fisherman, hiker, skier, wood turner, and wine maker. Clint considered himself to be the luckiest man in the world and felt abundantly blessed. Clint is survived by his wife, Sharon; and sons, Keith and Craig; and siblings, Cary, Kimberly, and Chris.

Eldon (Leon) Macy



Eldon (Leon) Macy, 86, of Del Norte was born at Woodston, KS on Dec. 13, 1928 and died on Jan. 29, 2015. He graduated from Harlan (KS) High School and attended York College in York, NE. On March 19, 1950 he married Catherine E. Winfield at Thayer, NE, and moved to Del Norte, CO in 1957 where Leon farmed.

He worked as a scaler for the Forest Service for 27 years. He was an avid big game hunter and trapper for 40 years – trapping for many farmers and ranchers from Creede to Alamosa. He enjoyed gardening and was known for the carrots, corn, peas, beans and pumpkins he raised. He also enjoyed building things like a porch to his house, a garage, or helping family with their building projects. He was a gentle spirit who had a unique connection to animals.

He was a member of Pioneer United Church, Gideons and served as a 4-H leader for several years. The pride of Leon’s life was his family. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; his son Randy; and his daughter, Betty; and his three grandchildren, Aubrey, Bryan, Brandon; and four great-grandchildren, Kandace, Kimberly, and Bryson.

George Norman Mandeville



George Norman Mandeville, age 90, of Dunning passed away on February 1, 2015. He was born in Mullen, NE on March 12, 1924 and married Zelda Little on February 15, 1947. George was a Marine veteran, rancher and retired Forest Service Range Manager. He was a member of the VFW, American Legion and the Custer Masonic Lodge 148 Broken Bow.

He was a dedicated and loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather and is greatly missed. George is survived by his children; Linda, George, Sheri; and six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Betty LaRue Matthews



Betty LaRue Matthews died on March 25, 2015, at the age of 95 in Phoenix, AZ. She was born on January 24, 1920. She graduated from Kearney High School and attended Los Angeles City College in 1939. She married Emery Matthews in 1941 in Grand Island, NE. Betty was a District Clerk on the Bighorn N.F. (Tongue R.D.) and retired in 1980 after 20 years of federal service.

After retiring from the Bighorn in 1980 and working for RENEW for four years, she and Emery enjoyed spending winters in Arizona where they danced the entire winter. She enjoyed family, traveling, gardening, bird watching, sewing, knitting, walking, swimming, fishing, and reading. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Story Garden Club, Beta Sigma Phi, YMCA, Sheridan Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and served as "Grey Lady" for Red Cross in Stuttgart, Germany in 1953.

Betty is survived by her daughter, Betty Jean; her son, Stephen; her granddaughters, Lori, Jodi, and Kelli; and her six great grandchildren, Taylor, Nicole, Paris, Spenser, Dalton and Timber.

Mary June Peterson Miller



Mary June Peterson Miller died on October 20, 2015 in Sanford, CO. She was born in Sanford on June 29, 1924. She graduated from Sanford High School and married Richard Herman Miller May 3, 1942 in Sanford.

Most of her career was working as a clerk for the Forest Service, and after retiring she worked as the Sanford Town Clerk for a number of years. Mary June had a gift for writing and especially enjoyed poetry. She was a member of the Colorado Historical Society and loved researching San Luis Valley History and published several historical books including “We Call it Home” and a book of poetry, “Pickin’ and Pannin” regarding the early mining days in Creede, CO.

Her first work was started in the pea sheds in La Jara. She was multi-talented and held a variety of jobs throughout her life including running a beauty salon, the Sanford Café, and The Handcart Book Store in La Jara. She was a bookkeeper for Cal Gas and Helms Potato Company, and a secretary at the Alamosa Hospital, and also a secretary for a doctor. She was a fabulous cook and hosted many dinners for family and friends. She had a lovely voice, played the piano and could recite poetry with speed and precision. Mary June is survived by sons, Kim, Vaughn, Kay, and Glen Miller; twenty-two grandchildren; and sixty-three great-grandchildren.

Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr.



Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr. of Montrose died Oct. 30, 2015 in Montrose, CO. Jay was born in Grand Junction on Feb.16, 1942. He graduated from Grand Junction High School in 1960 and immediately enlisted in the U.S Army. He married Phyllis Peterson in 1961; in 1975, he was united in marriage with Diane Pryor.

Jay was an equipment operator on the GMUG NF from 2001-2014. Jay enjoyed working and he spent his life in various types of construction. He logged and built many of the roads in the mountains of Colorado. Some of his most memorable areas are Taylor Reservoir, Land's End on Grand Mesa, Hanks Valley on the Uncompahgre, and the beach and campground at Ridgway Reservoir. He started his career at the family business, the Pryor Sawmill, until it sold in 1980 when he started another partnership business, P&S Construction before his work with the Forest Service. At age 72, Jay retired from the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison National Forest Service.

Jay loved to spend time with his family hunting, fishing and camping. Jay also loved watching and cheering on the Broncos. Jay is survived by daughters, Lori and Dina; and son, Roy; step-daughters, Kim and Kindra; step-son Kyle; eleven grandchildren; and five great- grandchildren.

John T. (Tom) Quinn



John T. (Tom) Quinn, a longtime resident of Sheridan, WY passed away in Prescott, AZ on October 14, 2015. A native of Mississippi, he graduated from Mississippi State with a Bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. He spent the next two years in the Army. He began his Forest Service career as a seasonal working on the Sitgreaves National Forest where he brought his bride, Lindon, to a lookout tower out of Winslow, AZ. During the next three years he worked on the Wasatch N.F. and received his Master's Degree in Forest Management.

He was timber staff on the Medicine Bow NF and in the mid-80's he was Forest Supervisor on the Rio Grande N. F. He retired in 1989 as Regional Director of Fire and Aviation for Region 2. One year later he began working for Wyoming Sawmills in Sheridan. He worked for them for ten years. Tom loved and treasured his family, friends, The United States of America and its forest lands and wildlife and the discipline of work. He enjoyed golf, fishing, hunting, reading, playing pool and cards. He is survived by his wife, Lindon; two sons, John and Daniel; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

David John (Dave) Ruhl



David “Dave” John Ruhl, 38, died Friday, July 31, 2015, on the Modoc National Forest in Adin, CA while working on a wildfire. Dave was born on May 9, 1977, in Thornton, CO. He graduated in 1995 from Whitewater High School in Whitewater, WI, and immediately joined the United States Coast Guard. He was an MK2 Machinery Technician on active duty during the Gulf War and was stationed on the USCG Mackinaw and USCG Chippewa. Dave was honorably discharged in 1999.



He then moved to Pierre, SD where he worked as a correctional officer and also where he met the love of his life, Erin. Dave and Erin were married on Oct. 23, 2004. Dave had a deep love for his faith, family, and life as a firefighter. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, bicycling, hockey, and being outdoors, but mostly spending time with his family and friends. Dave was an avid Denver Broncos and Colorado Avalanche fan.

Dave’s career with the Forest Service began in 2001 with the Fort Pierre National Grassland as a seasonal firefighter. In 2008, he transferred to the Caribou-Targhee N.F. as an Engine Captain. In 2010, he transferred to the Mystic Ranger District on the Black Hills N. F. Dave was also a volunteer firefighter for the Pierre Fire Department, Pierre Rural Fire Department, and the Pierre Rescue/Dive Squad. He was actively involved with coaching his son Tyler’s youth hockey team and played hockey himself. Dave is survived by his wife, Erin; son Tyler; daughter, Ava; father, John Ruhl; mother, Pamela Sachs; and his brother, Michael.

Patricia C. Smith



Patricia C. Smith died March 28, 2015 on her 88th birthday in Gunnison, CO. She was born March 28, 1927 in Denver. Mz Pat, Patricia, Gramma Pat, and Pitter Pat were all names for an incredible lady who could light up any room with her smile! Pat was an incredible mom, friend and coach who encouraged, listened and made it her duty to nurture, love and cherish life.

She enjoyed a professional career with the U.S. Forest Service and spent a good part of her career in R-2 working in State and Private Forestry doing budget and state grants in the mid to late 70’s. She was Administrative Officer on the Arapaho-Roosevelt N. F., worked in R-9, and then transferred to the Washington Office where she earned a respectful reputation for being tough, smart, and independent.

She retired in 1988 and lived in Tucson before moving back to Colorado. Pat will be missed by family and friends from every place and every person she touched, most recently Gunnison. Pat fell in love with Gunnison and Gunnison fell in love with her! She is survived by daughters, Debbie and Gayle; as well as nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren:

Nancy Stephens



Nancy Stephens, who retired recently from the Regional Office, passed away on October 15, 2015. She was born on November 19, 1939 to Wilbur and Gladys Carlson. She grew up in Dixon, Illinois. She worked for number of years as a Forest Service visitor information specialist. Nancy enjoyed being outdoors and especially loved to be camping with family. She is survived by daughter, Deanna; and son, Dan; as well as four grandchildren, David and Rachel, Anthony, and Chris, and two great-grandchildren, Macaylea and Lexie.

Frederic B. (Fred) Stillman



Frederic B. (Fred) Stillman of Lakewood, CO died on January 5, 2015. He was born in 1932 in East Rochester, NY. He graduated from high school in East Rochester, NY in 1950 and then went on to Colorado A&M in the College of Forestry. After graduation he got his first job with the Forest Service on the Black Hills.

He worked on the San Juan NF on both the Glade Ranger District and Columbine R.D.s in the early 60's. He was the Pole Mountain District Ranger on the Medicine Bow N.F. in the late 60's and then went to the Gunnison N.F. as the Staff Officer in Recreation Lands and Watershed in the early 70's and then back as ranger on Rio Grande from 1973 until around 1977. He left the Forest Service and went to work for the BLM at their Colorado State Office and his last assignment was with the Office of Emergency Management in Denver when he retired in the mid-80s. Flying model airplanes was a favorite hobby of Fred's and he also was a HAM radio operator with call letters KBOZRY.

He is survived by his wife, Donna; son, Vance; daughter, Valerie; and three grandchildren. His older brother, Richard M. Stillman, who died in 1988, is also honored here at Memorial Grove.

Craig K. Sullivan



Craig K. Sullivan, San Juan NF Headwaters Forester on the Columbine/Pagosa RDs, passed away on June 17, 2015, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Craig spent his childhood in northcentral England and moved with his family to Wisconsin in 1976. He graduated from Parker High School in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 1981. He proudly served in the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper ranger, earning the rank of sergeant.

Craig earned Bachelor's degrees from University of Wisconsin at Stout and Stevens Point and completed Master's degree work in Silviculture and Forestry. Craig had a 20-year career as a forester with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. His work took he and his family to Montana, Alaska, Tennessee, New Mexico, and finally to Southwest Colorado in 2004. Craig is survived by his wife, Danielle; and two sons, Ethan, 16, and Charlie, 10.

Benicio M. Trujillo



San Miguel resident **Benicio (Ben) M. Trujillo**, 79, passed away January 8, 2015. Ben was born on June 24, 1935 in San Miguel, NM. He was married to Elsie C. Trujillo on August 29, 1959 in Taos, NM.

Ben worked and retired from the Forest Service as a trail foreman. Ben was a loving, kind and caring husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin and friend who enjoyed going hunting and fishing, farming, ranching, being outdoors, attending family gatherings and the time he spent with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Elsie; daughters, Tracy, Debra, Betsy, and Audrey; sons, Ricky, Jake, Harold, and Benjie; twenty grandchildren; and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Karl F. Zeller



Karl F. Zeller of Ignacio, CO died Feb. 13, 2015. He was born Feb. 19, 1931 in Nazareth, PA, where he grew up and went to school, until enlisting in the Navy in 1950. He prided himself in his naval service with aircraft carrier fighter squadrons, retaining his interest in naval aviation. With great pride, he graduated Cum Laude in 1957 from the University of New Hampshire with a Wildlife Management Degree.

Upon graduation, he was hired by the Forest Service, spending 26 years as a Ranger in Wyoming and Colorado. He started on the Clarks Fork District on the Shoshone N.F. and then went on to the Blanco District on the White River N.F. He was then ranger on the Holy Cross District and finally ranger on to the Animas District on the San Juan N.F. As an amateur historian, he loved discovering anecdotes of his own family history including his German roots, PA German dialect, and Forest Service history. Karl was an English sports car enthusiast. He was a lover of classical and folkloric music, and in his spare time he considered himself an amateurish pianist and accordionist.

He is survived by he wife, Marie "Della"; sons, Skip, Chris, Eric, and Shane; daughter, Heidi; step daughter, Linda; and four grandchildren, Kaeti, Orion, Joe and Alex and five great-grandchildren.

Not Forgotten:

Frank Le Blanc



Former Del Norte resident, **Frank LeBlanc**, 87, passed away on September 5, 2014, in Albuquerque, NM surrounded by his loving family.

Frank was born Armando Francisco LeBlanc on November 1, 1926 in Del Norte, CO. He was married to Ruth Atencio on June 27, 1949. Frank was a Forestry Technician for the Forest Service in Del Norte for 33 years. Frank enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping, going to the casino and spending time with his beloved family. His great-grandchildren, all of whom he adored tremendously, affectionately called Frank “Papa”.

He is survived by daughters, Frances, Leah, Nadine; and grandchildren, Ray, Brian, Zachary, Michael, and Nicole; and great-grandchildren, Miquela, Lauren, Sophis, Isabella, Dylan, Ryan, Adrienne, Maria, Alana, Mikelle, and Lola; brothers, Rudy and Phillip; and sisters, Elena, Christina, Mercedes, and Inez.

Richard Alejandrino “Butterball” Martinez

Longtime San Luis Valley resident **Richard Alejandrino “Butterball” Martinez**, 71, passed away July 17, 2014 near Chromo, CO. Richard was born on March 4, 1943 in Capulin, CO. He was raised by his adopted parents Moises and Elvira Griego. Richard worked for the Forest Service as a Heavy Equipment Operator for 35 years, retiring in 2005. Following his retirement he drove for and worked in building and construction with the Amish in the valley.

Richard loved the mountains and enjoyed camping and hiking. He also liked listening to gospel music and was always willing to help anyone in need. He loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Richard is survived by his wife, Lori; his children Catherine, Valeria, Melody, Elizabeth, Ricky; his god-son, Chris; his step-children, Daniel, Christopher, Justin, and Samantha; his grandchildren, Richard, Phillip, Jasmine; his step-grandchildren, Gabriel, Asher Taylor, and Brodey; his brothers and sisters, Edna, Nellie, John, Joe, Martha, Andrew, and Becky.

Daniel J. O'Rourke



Daniel J. (Dan) O'Rourke of Cedaredge, CO passed away on December 31, 2014 in Missoula, MT. Dan was born in Charleroi, PA, son of an immigrant clan of Irish coal miners. At sixteen, his parents signed the permission slip necessary for him to join the military during World War II. He served with the Marine Corps, Pacific theater as a pilot. Following discharge, he became a smokejumper stationed at Cave Junction, OR. He returned to California and wed the love of his life, Margaret (Peg) Cookson in May of 1950. They moved to Missoula the very next day, so that he could enter the University of Montana, School of Forestry. He jumped with the Missoula Smokejumpers out of Hale Field during his college years.

Following graduation he accepted an appointment with the Forest Service and worked on three districts in Colorado, including being Ranger on the Taylor River District. He worked in the Regional Office for a few years and then reassigned to the Rio Grande N.F. as Recreation-Lands staff officer where he retired in 1978. He and Peg spent the next fifteen years building their dream home in a forested area outside Cedaredge, CO. Following Peg's death in 1995, Dan built a summer home on his daughter's acreage outside of St Ignatius, MT, and he was able to spend summers and many holidays with his daughter and grandsons.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathleen; and his son, Patrick Michael; and grandsons, Michael, Sean, and Jamie; and his great-granddaughter, Margaret.

Paul M. Stewart



Paul M. Stewart, 88, of Littleton, died May 19, 2013 from pancreatic cancer. His wife of 66 years, Rose Marie (Dodie), 88, died Sept. 29, 2015 in Littleton. Paul was born March 11, 1925 and attended school in Niobrara, NE.

During WWII he served in the Army Air Corp, flying many missions over Europe as radio operator on a B-24 bomber. Following the war he worked for Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha Nebraska where he met and married Dodie. Paul was recalled to military service, serving as a training instructor during the Korean War. After the war he got a degree in Business from the University of Nebraska and took his first job with the Forest Service on the Medicine Bow N.F. In 1961 he transferred to the White River N.F. as the Administrative Officer. He also served as AO on the Shoshone N. F. and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.s. In 1976 he moved to the Regional Office and served in Budgeting and Operations before retiring in 1983.

Paul is survived by daughters, Kathy and Susan; a son, Scott; two granddaughters, Lisa and Sydne; and one great-granddaughter, Meghan.