



2017 Memorial Grove Honorees



Brett Beasley



Brett Beasley passed January 5, 2017. He was born January 5, 1970 in Danbury, CT to Robert and Liz Beasley. Brett worked for the Forest Service for almost 20 years as a recreation specialist for the Salida Ranger District after receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Park Resource Management from Kansas State University. He met his wife Cari in college and they were married on Oct. 7, 1995 in Moab, Utah. He was father of two daughters and proud of their musical and athletic accomplishments as well as their academic drive.

He enjoyed playing music with friends, going to concerts, mountain biking, skiing, hiking, dirt biking, trail building and fishing. He enjoyed teaching, having fun and watching others enjoy themselves. Brett was an avid volunteer for many local organizations.

He is survived by his wife Cari, his daughters Bari (17), Brooke (15); his parents, Robert and Liz Beasley; his siblings Beverly, Brad, Brenda, Bob, Pat, and Brie.

Marion James (Jim) Bickford



Marion James (Jim) Bickford died on August 16, 2017. He was born on March 19, 1935, on the Bickford homestead north of Springfield, Colorado during the dust bowl to Marion Lynn and Burniese Augusta Bickford. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1952. Jim worked on the Comanche National Grassland as a SCSEP employee from 2001 to 2003 and then as a seasonal Forestry Aid until 2012. He helped with many Range, Wildlife and Recreation projects on the Grasslands. He went above and

beyond what was expected of him.

He married Thelma Verhoeff in 1956 and they made their home in Springfield and raised three children. He worked with heavy equipment and for 31 years worked for the town of Springfield and also the Farm Service before his time with the Comanche National Grassland. He loved camping, fishing, and hunting with the family, as well as gardening, arrowhead hunting, and square dancing. He could be gruff and blunt which earned him the name "old grouch" but he was a kind and gentle man and loved his family and friends.

He is survived by his children: Teresa, Justin, and Don. Grandchildren: Levi, Kayci, Mari, Jaymie, Kodie Holli, Kayla, and Ethan and 12 great grandchildren. Also surviving are sister Juanita and brother Dale.

Joe R. (Rudy) Candelaria



Joe R. (Rudy) Candelaria died May 11, 2017 in Durango, CO. Joe was known to most people as “Rudy.” Rudy was born on November 19, 1938 in Rosa, NM. He studied at Fort Lewis College and then proudly served as a Marine in Hawaii.

After his service he returned back to the beautiful mountains of Pagosa Springs, CO and married the love of his life, Susie O’Caña. Rudy worked at the local sawmill in Pagosa Springs and then joined the Job Corps and taught carpentry. After his time with the Job Corps he spent the rest of his career with the San Juan National Forest. He loved sharing stories of his mountain adventures and his love for the outdoors.

Rudy is survived by his children Thomas (Marcelino), Paul (Mike), Monica and Rudolph (Mathew) Candelaria, along with numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Levi Griego and Donald and Steve Candelaria.

Guadalupe (Lupe) Cervantez



Guadalupe Lupe Cervantez passed away on January 15, 2017. He was born on January 15, 1960 in Muleshoe, Texas to Quirino and Maria Megia Cervantez. He was a heavy equipment Operator for the Forest Service on the Rio Grande N. F. for many years. He both loved his cars and working on his cars. His greatest joy came from spending time with his family and his friends.

Lupe is survived by his sons, Lupe Jr and Cynthia Cervantez, their children, Sonya Cervantez and Lupe Cervantez III, Daniel Cervantez, Carlos Cervantez and Emilio Cervantez, his grandchildren, Sonya and Lupe III, as well as his siblings, Balbina and Cruz Zarazua, Emma and Jose Torres, Quirino, Jr. and Glenda Cervantez, Juanita Martinez and Elmer, Rosemarie Gonzales, Angie Gonzales, Manuel Cervantez, Ruben and Angel Cervantez, Sylvia and Mike Maez, as well as numerous nieces nephews and extended family and friends.

Timothy (Tim) Clark



Timothy (Tim) Clark passed on March 29, 2017 in Belize while on a diving trip. He grew up in Shawnee, KS and was a graduate of Shawnee High School.

Prior to working for ESRI, he worked for the Forest Service as Regional GIS Coordinator, EPA, Jefferson County, Colorado and the State of Missouri. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Forestry and a member of the Society of American Foresters.

He lived life to the fullest and was always up to a new adventure whether it was marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade dressed as Pikachu or Eelpout ice fishing in Minnesota in -50 weather. Tim loved his Harley, scuba diving, gardening, the Denver Broncos and Colorado.

He is survived by his girlfriend Clissy, son Troy and daughter Julia.

LeRoy James (Roy) Cutler



LeRoy James “Roy” Cutler died Sept. 19, 2017, in Custer, SD. Roy was born May 9, 1928, in Roubaix, S.D., to William Ernest and Violet Mae (Cooper) Cutler. He grew up in Silver City, S.D., and went to high school in Rapid City, S.D.

After graduation, he lived at Pactola Camp while working on the Pactola Reservoir. Roy joined the U.S. Army in 1950. While stationed in Germany he drove tanks until his honorable discharge in September 1952. After his discharge, he returned to the Black Hills of South Dakota. In April 1964 he went to work on the Black Hills N. F. During this time there he met and worked with a great bunch of coworkers. Roy fought many forest fires throughout the Black Hills and in many other states. He also implemented watering stations throughout the Black Hills for wildlife. Roy retired in September 1983 and traveled to different states with his family.

Roy is survived by his sister, Wilma Rhoades; brother, Marion Cutler; sister-in-law, Jean Cutler Maze of Kansas.

David J. (Dave) Davies



David J. (Dave) Davies passed away on May 17, 2017. He was born in Cody, Wyoming on June 12, 1933 to John and Ethel Davies. Dave worked for the Forest Service during the summers at Wapiti Ranger Station. He served in the Marine Corp and was assigned to the USS Kearsarge. He married Mae Elaine Baetz in 1954 and finished his forestry degree at Colorado State University. They had two sons, Randall Scott Davies and Brian Jack Davies.

His first position with the FS was as a recreation forester on the Routt NF. He also worked on the Medicine Bow National Forest, and the Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre NFs. He finished his 30-year career in the RO in Recreation and Lands. Dave loved square dancing, traveling, and volunteered 12 years with Keystone Ski area. He ran seven marathons with a local running club.

Dave is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mae, and son, Brian, granddaughters Meghan Earley, (Trisha Shiflett) and Jenna Casto (Derrick Casto), two great grandsons, Preston Earley and

Austyn Earley. Dave came from a large family of nine and is survived by his twin sister, Delores Blanc, of Oakland, NE, and numerous nieces and nephews.

V. Shiral Farnham



V. Shiral Farnham, 80, passed away on March 21, 2017 at Seven Lakes Memory Care in Loveland, Colorado, from complications of Alzheimer's. She was born on July 20, 1936 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Albert and Shirley (Green) Thinglum.

Shiral grew up in eastern South Dakota, attending 10 different schools by the fourth grade. She graduated from Beresford High School in Beresford, SD in 1954 and was the class valedictorian. She graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1958. Shiral was a contracting officer for the U.S. Forest Service and retired after nearly 30 years. She was recognized many times for her dedication and above and beyond work ethic. Shiral loved working with her "many characters" on the Medicine Bow Forest. Shiral loved reading, and always carried a book with her just in case she had some extra time.

Shiral is survived by her sons Larry, and Jay, and daughter Sheralyn; her granddaughters Emily Farnham and Kate Farnham; and her sister Norma Jean Vanderlinden.

Francis Grim



Francis Grim, formerly of Durango passed away unexpectedly on Monday August 28, 2017 in Chandler, AZ.

Frances was born Dec. 21, 1939 in Dixon, New Mexico, to parents Candido and Aurelia Barela. This was a special day for her, as her father Candido passed away on her 5th birthday, serving his country in World War II. Her mother raised her along with 3 sisters and a brother in Santa Fe, N.M. This is where she met her husband Richard "Dick" Grim. The two settled in Durango, CO where they raised their two boys. Frances worked over thirty years for the Forest Service on the San Juan N.F., and upon retiring she moved to Maricopa, AZ.

Frances is survived by her two sons and their families. Mark, Debbie, Sami and Michael Grim, of Phoenix, AZ. Sam, Teresa, and Trini Grim of Maui, HI. Sister Margaret Perea and brother Candido Barela and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Richard, mother Aurelia, and sisters Carmen and Mela.

Priscilla Mercedes Riefkohl Guzman



Priscilla Mercedes Riefkohl Guzman died on February 1, 2017. Priscilla was born in 1975 in Puerto Rico. She married Mario Rafael Rodriquez Medin in August of 2000. Priscilla received here MA degree in Archaeology at the University of Birmingham, UK in 2001 and her BA in Anthropology from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus in 1998. Priscilla served as an archaeologist for 20 years, most recently as a zone archaeologist on the PSICC since 2012. A native of Puerto Rico, she started her Forest Service career on Yunque National Forest in 2003 before moving to the Stanislaus NF in 2006.

As anyone who had the privilege to work with Priscilla knows, she was one of the hardest working, most conscientious employees the Forest Service has been blessed to have. She worked closely with native tribes in all her years as an archaeologist. She was instrumental in renovation work done at Devil's Head Lookout. She will be most remembered by her unwavering spirit and fight to the bitter end of her battle.

She is survived by her loving husband Mario and precious daughter Maia, age 10.

Gilbert R. (Gil) Hedrich



Gilbert R. Hedrich, of Spearfish, died Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017, at his home. Gil was born Feb. 16, 1936. He was born on February 11, 1936 in New York City, New York. In 1961 he began his Forest Service career on the Medicine Bow National Forest in Laramie, Wyoming. He received his Wyoming Licensed Land Surveyor License in 1975 and in 1977 he transferred to the North Zone Engineering of the Black Hills National Forest and received his South Dakota Licensed Land Surveyor License in 1977.

During his tenure on the Black Hills he supervised Force Account Crews and Cadastral Surveying Contracts to set property corners and post the boundary on at least 95% of the boundaries between many parcels of private and NF lands. . Gil retired from the Black Hills National Forest in 1983.

He is survived by a brother, Roland, who lives in California.

Rickey Dennis (Rick) Hinkel



Rickey Dennis Hinkel, 68, of Laramie, died on March 3, 2017. Rick was born June 28, 1948 in Pisgah, IA to Everett and Hazel Hinkel. He served his country from 1968 – 1972 as a highly decorated Green Beret, completing three tours in the Vietnam War. Rick attended college at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa and the University of Wyoming, majoring in English.

Rick moved to Laramie in 1978. He fell in love with the mountains and never left. He retired as a heavy equipment operator for the Forest Service in 2008. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, traveling, photography, spending time at the family cabin in Albany, playing guitar and singing songs for his wife, and laughing with his many friends at the Ranger District, the American Legion, the VFW and the Elks. He was an avid reader, a musician, an amazing photographer and a kind and gentle soul. He was a wonderful grandfather (G-Pa), and loved holding the babies and singing to them. His greatest enjoyment in life was making people laugh. His intelligence and quick wit will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Debra; his siblings, Dorothy Hildreth, Verva Thiles, Myrna Beeber, and Keith Hinkel; his daughter Haley Ragland, his stepchildren, Randal Ramirez , Robert Ramirez, and Robyn Ramirez; his grandchildren, Reagan, Coltyn, and Ryleigh Ragland, Oliver and Izak Ramirez, and Caydence and Keagan Eicholtz.

Guy Ikenberry



Guy Ikenberry was born at home on July 27, 1933, to Clarence and Hersey (Hostedler) Ikenberry. He passed away Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Good Samaritan Center, Hays, KS. Guy graduated from high school in Quinter, KS. Guy married his first wife Joyce Arbuckle in 1957 and then he enlisted into the US Air Force where he spent time in Greenland. While in the Air Force, Guy worked as a heavy equipment operator. After discharge, he found his way back to Kansas and then moved to Oregon in 1970. He worked for the Forest Service as a heavy equipment operator and driving instructor. In 1978, Guy married Venita Kay Williford. They moved to

Delta, CO, where he lived for several years before retiring from the US Forest Service as a Fleet Manager.

He enjoyed the outdoors, Native American culture, and spent many hours picking up agates on the Oregon coast, hunting Antelope in Colorado, and walking through the desert in Arizona picking up walking sticks. In 2003 he moved back to Kansas to be close to family, and to settle back to what was home to him.

Guy is survived by three daughters, Inga Rekow, Tammy Morgan and Marcia Fivecoats; eleven grandchildren, Ginger, Terry, John, Desirae, Mychal, Bob, Doug, Stephanie, Daniel, Kaylee and Jamie; twelve great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

William S. (Bill) Jarrell, Sr.

William S. (Bill) Jarrell, Sr. died on March 19, 2017. Bill was born to M.L. and Nellie Joe Jarrell in Rusk County, Texas on August 6, 1936. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in Texas with a forestry degree. He spent his entire career working for the U. S. Forest Service.

During his career, he lived in Oregon, South Dakota and many places in Colorado, with his favorite being Delta, Colorado. He enjoyed coin collecting, coin hunting, and his pets.

Bill is survived by his son William "Jay" S. Jarrell Jr., daughter Catherine (Jim) Weiman, grandson Nicholas (Caitlyn) Weiman, granddaughter Rachel (Casey) Weiman, and sister Sara Adams. In addition, he is survived by the cats he loved, Lily and Payton. Bill was a good father, grandfather and man. He will be missed by those who loved him dearly.

Richard M. Jewell



Richard M. Jewell passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Pagosa Spring on Sunday March 12, 2017 after complications with pneumonia and over a decade of battling Parkinson's. Rick was born on February 8, 1951 in Chicago, IL. Growing up in the woods of New Hampshire, Rick fell in love with the outdoors and later became a forester for the Forest Service for over thirty six years. Just like the John Denver song "Rocky Mountain High", he moved to Colorado his 27th year and never looked back. Aside from his career, Rick enjoyed the outdoors by skiing and hiking in the Rocky Mountains and running. As a sports enthusiast, he enjoyed playing in the adult soccer and hockey leagues in Pagosa Spring and Durango, CO and loved following his children's sports career. After retiring, Rick pursued his love of painting and wood working starting his small business Lone Tree Lamps; creating (like he himself was) true, one-of-a-kind Jewells.

He is survived by his wife, Roxane; two children, Caitlyn and John; his sister Barbara, her husband John, and nephew Ryan Clavette; as well as other amazing aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Buelah Kathleen (Kathy) Kelly



Buelah Kathleen "Kathy" Kelly died on February 26, 2017. She was born July 8, 1932, in Queen City, Missouri. She was raised on a farm by their parents, Perley Floyd and Bessie Starbuck. Buelah met her husband, Robert Emmett Kelly, who was in the Air Force. After they were married they traveled the world. They lived in Turkey and Germany and saw most of Europe before Robert retired from the Air Force and they moved to Gunnison.

Once in Gunnison, Kathy worked for the United States Forest Service wearing many hats, including that of receptionist and forest fire dispatcher. Kathy retired from the Forest Service in 1998 and moved to Montrose. She enjoyed volunteering at the hospital, traveling with friends, going to the Magic Circle plays and attending local concerts.

Kathy is survived by her daughter Cheryl Hill, and her sons, Randy and Robert. She leaves behind eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Johnny Starbuck and Lucille York, and Gerald Starbuck.

Thomas Edward Lewis



Thomas Edward (Tom) Lewis died on April 5, 2017 in Fruita, CO. Tom was born August 22, 1931 in The Dalles, OR to Robert and Esther Lewis. He graduated from Garfield County High School in Glenwood Springs in 1949 and from Colorado A & M with a degree in forest management in 1953 and his first assignment was on the Holy Cross District in Minturn. In November 1953 he entered the U. S. Army and served two years. After returning he was stationed on the Black Hills in Custer and then to the Bear Lodge District and then to Spearfish as assistant ranger.

In 1957 he married Shirley Ann Krueger in Spearfish. In May 1958 he was promoted to ranger on the Laramie River District of the Roosevelt N. F. and then in 1961 he became ranger on the Elk Mountain District back on the Black Hills. In 1963 became the Range and Wildlife Staff Officer on the Gunnison and in 1966 he moved back to the Black Hills as staff officer. In 1968 he moved to R-5. He retired in January 1986 and organized and ran a campground concessionaire business out of for eleven years. In 1997 Tom and Shirley moved back to Colorado to Grand Junction where he loved hiking, hunting, and fishing. Over the last twenty years the couple did lots of traveling and camper camping.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley A.; one son, Thomas Jr. of Grand Junction; one daughter, Sharon Lewis of Elk Grove, California; and one brother, Rodney of Pueblo.

Diana Marie Menapace



Diana Marie Menapace died on December 26, 2017. Diana was born on December 22, 1946 in Denver to Donald and Larabel Neithercut. After graduating from Wheatridge High School, she received a Bachelor and Masters Degree in Microbiology from Colorado State University. Before coming to work for the Forest Service she worked in research for USDA in Wyoming and studied and published extensive research on honeybees. In the Regional Office, Diana worked in planning as a National Environmental Policy Act Specialist, provided support to the appeals and litigation work, served as the National Environmental Policy Act Coordinator, was instrumental in compiling a complete NEPA Library, establishing standards, and teaching documentation standards.

She worked in the Region from 1990 until 2007 when she retired. She was a wonderful person and a true professional who had a positive influence on all those she worked with. She was an accomplished pianist and loved feeding and watching birds. She loved her pets, both dogs and cats, and was an active scrapbooker featured memories of grandchildren and travel. Diana was very active at Wheatridge United Methodist Church, including playing in the Bell Choir and a member of the church's Finance Board.

Diana is survived by her husband David, son Darin and daughter Danielle, and grandchildren: Ava, Logan, and Lana.

Dennis Neill



Dennis Neill died on March 9, 2017. Dennis was born in rural north central Missouri on February 20, 1951 to Betty and Hubert Neill. After graduating from Trenton High School, attended college in Columbia, Missouri, in agricultural journalism and completed his undergraduate at Ambassador College in California. He married his first wife, Chris Heath, and had two daughters, Erin and Heather.

Dennis worked at a research job in the USDA in Washington, D.C. and then APHIS in Oregon before becoming the public affairs officer on the San Juan NF. Dennis worked his way up as an information officer on the Type 1 fire team in the Rocky Mountains and worked many fire-fighting efforts, including the Yellowstone fires of 1988. During his career he worked at the regional office in Denver, on the San Juan and Black Hills NF, and finally moved to Alaska to take the lead PAO position on the Tongass NF in Ketchikan, AK in 2001. He married Faith Duncan in December, 2001. In 2007 Dennis and Faith lived out a lifelong dream of traveling to Africa. He retired in 2008. Like most things in his life, he approached his eight year cancer fight with positivism and tolerance. He maintained a smile for friends and a penchant for coffee ice cream until his end on a snowy weekend in March, 2017.

He is survived by Faith, daughters Erin Williams and Heather, and grandchildren, Tahauqua “Tag” and Zora Williams

Dennis Newell



Dennis Newell passed away at his home on Springhill, near Esterbrook, on Saturday, April 22, 2017. He was born August 19, 1947 in Douglas, WY to Guy and Opal Newell at the POW camp hospital. He grew up in the same mountain home he resided in for most of his life. He spent two years in the Army in Alaska and married Melody in 1971 and took up ranching in Converse County where there three daughters were born and raised.

Dennis went to work for the FS and worked in fire for the Medicine Bow National Forest. Nobody knew the mountains, and how to get around in them, like Dennis. He retired from the FS in 2003, but continued with his efforts in the rural fire zone and worked diligently to have a new fire hall built in the Esterbrook community. Dennis was a lover of the outdoors. He spent his springs calving and irrigating, summers fishing, every fall hunting, and winters trapping. He loved spending time with his grandkids.

Dennis is survived by his wife Melody, daughters Misty Haefele, Michelle Lake, and Angela Cope. His sister, Kathy Wolf; grandchildren Kimber James, Halie Haefele, Shea Morgan (Andrew), Shonda Haefele, Maleah Cope, Grady Cope, and Kaiden Lake. Great-grandchildren, Kaedance and Khloe Sternhagen, Caleb, Conner, and Callie James, Tanner Morgan and a great-grandson on the way.

Marjorie Pendo



Marjorie Pendo of Sturgis, SD passed away on May 20, 2017. She was born on February 4, 1928 in Deadwood, SD to Ralph and Ann (Sexton) Pendo. She grew up and graduated from high school in Lead, SD.

Marjorie worked most of her life for the U. S. Forest Service where she eventually retired. She spent most of her retired life in Sturgis, SD. She was very active in a few different VFW and Eagles clubs.

Marjorie is survived by her daughters, Judy Byrum, Sturgis, SD and Cheri Mayeda, Gilcrest, CO; grandchildren, Lonnie White, Englewood, CO, Julayne Brown, Haxtun, CO, Traci (Rich) Castro, Denver, CO, Steve (Michelle) Mayeda, LaSalle, CO, Joelle Meade, Denver, CO; 11 great grandchildren and 10 great great grandchildren.

Harlan Lee Porter



Harlan Lee Porter passed away on November 21, 2017 in Grand Junction. He was born June 9, 1937 in Beardsley, Kansas, to Lote and Almeda (Spears) Porter. Harlan was the starting pitcher for Colorado Springs-Palmer High School and State Baseball Champions in 1956 and attended Aeronautical School in 1957. Joining the Army on April 14, 1958, he served at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was honorably discharged in 1964. On June 10, 1961, he and Gwendolyn LaMotte were married. Harlan worked for 35 years at the US Forest Service, as a Civil Engineering Technician and in 1991 was honored as the R-2 Civil Engineering Technician of the Year. He was a safety officer and fought many forest fires, including the Yellowstone Fires of 1988. He started on the Pike N. F. and transferred to the White River SO, Glenwood Springs, CO where they raised their four children. After retiring he served on the Glenwood Springs Fire District as President.

Harlan was an avid golfer, outdoorsman, baseball fan, traveler, and enjoyed sailing, fishing, biking, riding his horse, snowshoeing or hiking around the area with friends and family. He passed on his love of the outdoors to his children and grandchildren. He is remembered as an "easy-going loving man" and always brought a smile and laughter to those surrounding him.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gwen; his brother, Arnold Porter, Florissant, CO; three sons, Jeffrey (Cathy), Craig (Patty) and Christopher; and daughter Chandra. His greatest joy was spending time with his eight grandchildren, Lauren, Kelly, Brooke, Taylor, Tucker, Tessa, Brody and Ruby.

Christina Marie Randall



Christina Marie Randall passed away on March 19, 2017. She was born to Henry and Helga Randall, February 28, 1965 at Scott Air Force Base, in St. Clair County, Illinois. A diligent, adventurous and hard working person, she set out to do and experience all she could fit into living life and helping others. Christina received her bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Management from CSU. She served as Wildfire Mitigation Administrator for the Colorado Springs Fire Department, spending over 33 years in the fire service. During 19 years with the US Forest Service, Christina served on hotshots, engines, fuels management, timber harvest inspector and battalion chief. She served on both the International Association of Fire Chiefs

Wildland Fire Policy Committee and the National Wildfire Urban Interface Mitigation Committee.

Christina married David Mann on April 3, 2001 in Susanville, California. She played the piano and loved the desert and its colorful splendor. Christina was compassionate and generous. She lifted others up when in need and would go to great lengths to take care of her family, friends and co-workers. Intelligent, funny, brave, and kind, Christina impacted people and the world around her by her actions and made it better.

Survived by her husband David Mann, her mother Helga Randall, step-father Les Jergens, sister Patricia Keene, sister Nada Baker.

John Frederic (Jack) Sanders



John Frederic (Jack) Sanders of Cody died from lung cancer the morning of November 2nd in the care of Spirit Mountain hospice. He was born October 20th, 1938 to Fred and Anna Sanders in Big Sandy, Montana. After graduating high school, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1958 to 1963 and then graduated from the University of Montana as a wildlife biologist. He married Marlene Nazer on December 20th, 1965. He was an avid hunter and served as a forester for the U.S. Forest Service for 32 years. He also prided himself as a high school football official, softball umpire and accomplished bowler.

Survived by his wife, Marlene; daughters and sons-in-law Suzanne and Chris Fassler of Draper, Utah and Denise and Brian Wiegand of Cody; sisters Betty Schott of Columbia Falls, Montana and Linda (Greg) Harkins of Tuscon Arizona. Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law Tanna and Paul Bebo of Anaconda, Montana. Grandchildren Aaron, Shannon, and Theresa Fassler and Jessica and Justin Wiegand.

LaVerne Arthur Schultz



LaVerne Arthur Schultz died in Fort Collins, CO on May 1, 2017. He was born August 19, 1931 in Chaseburg, WI to Emil and Mabel Schultz. He graduated from high school in Austin, Minnesota in 1949. He was the first college graduate in his family and earned his diploma from the University of Minnesota. He served in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He began his long career with the Forest Service starting on the Custer (SD) District in 1960. He met and married his wife Gloria Shenk in Custer. He then moved to the Arapahoe, then the Gunnison, and then the Routt N. F.s. In 1970 LaVerne, with his family, relocated to the Nebraska National Forest as Bessey District Ranger until 1979. He finished his career in 1989 in Michigan and after returned to the Black Hills.

LaVerne loved the forest and range land of the Nebraska Sandhills. He was also an ardent gardener; loved kids; played cribbage, bridge, and poker; enjoyed the outdoors and fishing. He took pride in fighting forest fires as part of his job.

He is survived by his seven children: Linda Brown (Rodney), Lisa Rutherford (Scott), Sarah Schultz (Paul VanStell), David Schultz (Alissa), Lori Cromell (Brad), Dan Schultz (Marie), Lydia Schultz (Keith Laitala). He has nine grandchildren: Nathaniel and Jonathan Brown; Emmalee and Logan Rutherford; Kaylee, Grace, Mila and Camden Schultz; Abby Cromell. He is also survived by his sister Janice Luns, as well as nieces and a nephew.

Loretta Eve Schure



Loretta Eve Schure passed on April 3, 2017. “Retta” was born at midnight on New Year’s “Eve” in 1937 in Palisade, CO. She and her 3 siblings were born to Mary (Strobl Martini) and Nelson Miles Richardson, and, were raised on a farm in Meeker, CO where she loved her pets and rode to school on her horse Frisky. She graduated from Central Business College in Denver, CO, worked for an insurance agent, and married in 1960. She became a wonderful stay at home mom and had two children Greg and Lynne. After her children were older she worked part time in the kitchen for the school district. After her beloved son Greg, who holds a Junior Olympics track record, was killed in a mini bike/motorcycle accident at age 11, she helped other parents in Grief Resolution Classes. When she sought a divorce in 1977 she, as a domestic violence survivor, became her daughter Lynne’s “Hero”.

As a single mom, she worked for the Forest Service, for 13 years, in the Regional Office in Human Resources and the Fire, Aviation, and Safety Section. After retirement and as a breast cancer survivor she became Kaiser certified to fit women for prosthesis. In 2004 she became a proud grandma to Stephanie. She loved reading, dancing, playing bridge, water aerobics, bowling, hiking, gardening as therapy, garage sales, collecting antique glassware, and travel. She had a wonderful smile on her face and was a delight to be around. She was kind, elegant and a class act. Loretta’s faith in the “LORD” was the foundation of her life and family.

Loretta is survived by her daughter Lynne and granddaughter Stephanie

H. B. “Doc” Smith



H. B (Doc) Smith died on February 25, 2017 in Chandler, AZ. “Doc” was born in 1931 to Hiram and Bertie Smith in Mississippi and grew up in southern New Mexico and west Texas. He graduated from high school in El Paso, Texas and then went in the Navy and served during at the end of the Korean War. After the military, he went to Colorado and worked in mines for a year, before enrolling at Colorado A & M at the College of Forestry and Natural Resources in Fort Collins, CO. While in college he worked summers on the

Coeur d'Alene National Forest in northern Idaho in 1958, and then in 1959, he was a smoke jumper out of Missoula, MT.

After receiving his BS in Forestry in 1961 he started out on the San Juan National Forest as a timber sales forester. He moved to Minturn, Colorado on the Holy Cross District of the White River, then district ranger on the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming for seven years. He worked in Region 4 and Region 3 after leaving R-2. After retiring he earned a Masters in Forestry and became part of the Ecological Restoration Institute in Flagstaff. "Doc" was very proud of his Forest Service career and remained involved with National Smokejumpers Association, National Museum of Forest Service History, National Association of Forest Service Retires, Rocky Mountaineers, Amigos, Society of American Foresters, and all the Forest Service Reunions.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy and daughter, Kelli, and son, Ken, and their families all in the Phoenix area.

Robert D. (Bob) Sullivan



Robert D. (Bob) Sullivan, of Fort Collins, died on May 19, 2017. He was 90 years old. Bob was born the son of Virginia Eberly and Del Sullivan on September 5, 1926 in Denver, CO. He served in the US Army in the Pacific during WWII. Bob met his wife of 67 ½ years, Vella Foster, while both were students at Colorado A&M College. Bob graduated with a degree in Forest Management in 1951. His first Forest Service appointment was on the Arapahoe N. F. in Hot Sulphur Springs, CO; was Ranger on the Laramie R.D. on the Roosevelt N. F.; and after 33 years retired from the Regional Office.

Bob was very active in the community and dedicated many years to the Boy Scouts of America. He was a member of the American Legion, The Society of American Foresters and several other forestry associations to include, Rocky Mountaineers, Colorado Forestry Association, the Forest Fire Lookouts and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.

He is survived by his wife Vella; twin boys, Mike and Steve Sullivan; daughter, Ann Clay; brother Bill Sullivan; as well as his seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Shirley Mae Tafoya



Shirley Mae Tafoya, age 63, former resident of Delta, passed away on March 27, 2017 in Montrose. She was born in Delta July 2, 1953, to John and Della (Sierra) Tafoya. She spent her childhood in Austin, attended Fairview school in Austin and graduated from Delta High School in 1972.

Ms. Shirley, as she was known, worked on the GMUG N.F.s as the

telephone receptionist and retired in 2002. She was dearly missed when she retired and remembered for her wonderful welcoming voice, sunny disposition, and caring loving personality. She touched many lives and knew most everyone on the Forest or at least their voice. She enjoyed playing computer games, playing bingo with her Valley Manor friends, singing, bird watching, listening to music, spending time with family and friends and watching the Denver Broncos.

She is survived by her brothers, Jose (Ada) Fresquez of Arizona and Ernie (Cecilia) Tafoya of Delta; three sisters, Viola Majors, Jane Tafoya and Lita (Angelo) Armendariz, all of Delta; and numerous nieces and nephews

Roy E. Thomson



Roy Edward Thomson died in Oakdale, MN on April 20, 2017. He was born in North Dakota in 1921 to James and Orabell Thomson. Roy joined the Civilian Conservation Corps upon his high school graduation. He was assigned to Custer, South Dakota, where he met his future wife Evelyn. In 1941, Roy was in Oregon looking for work when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. Enlistment in the army was followed by deployment to Africa under General Patton. His group then landed, and fought in Sicily; then was sent to England, where preparations were made for the European Invasion. Roy landed on Normandy on D-Day, fought across France, then Belgium and Germany. At war's end, his group (62nd Armored Field Battalion) was among the first to return home because their 422 days of battle was among the most days any group had sustained.

Roy returned to Custer, married Evelyn, had two children and went to work for the Forest Service. He started part time planting trees, but was then hired as a clerk typist. He transferred to Steamboat Springs to work for the Administrative Assistant and a later transfer to Laramie gave him chance also attend the University of Wyoming. The Shoshone was his next home, where he was Administrative Officer. His final transfer was to the Regional Office in Denver (1963) where he was a contracting officer. He retired in 1976. Roy and Evelyn had twenty-five years of golf and sun in Needles, California. They spent their final years in Minnesota enjoying their family, not the weather.

He is survived by his daughter Lori Cromell of Rhinelander, WI.

Paul (Mike) Winters



Paul (Mike) Winters, 68, of Laramie passed away at his home Tuesday, March 7, 2017 after a courageous battle against cancer. He was born December 29, 1948 in Wheeling, West Virginia to Paul and Julia (Richmond) Winters. Mike married Roberta (Williamson) Tratos on June 14, 1997 in Douglas, Wyoming.

He was a committed forester, serving over 35 years for the U.S. Forest Service. He enjoyed teaching the Eagle Scouts about leadership and the outdoors. His hobbies included woodworking, hunting and fishing; and he was active in his church home, enjoying morning bible study each week.

He is survived by his daughters Michaela Tratos of Laramie, WY; Brianna Tratos of Las Vegas, NV; brother, John (Maggie) Winters of West Richland, WA

Kenneth Howard (Ken) Wood



Kenneth Howard (Ken) Wood, 77, passed away in Cody, WY on February 9, 2017. He was born on August 7, 1939 to Robert and Bertina (Vale) Wood in Battle Creek, MI. He graduated from Michigan State University and then served in the Army at Ft. Carson as a First Lieutenant Commander for two years. He then began his first career in the Forest Service. Ken was the Pikes Peak District Ranger in the early 1970's. He later worked the Recreation/Lands Staff Officer on the Shoshone NF until he retired early and started a real estate business in Cody.

He married Terry Feller on June, 20, 1965 in Colorado Springs, and began their family, moving to Monte Vista, CO and Woodland Park, CO. In 1974, Ken moved his family to Cody and after retirement from the Forest Service in 1986, he began his second career selling real estate. Ken was active in his church as Elder, Deacon, and member of the choir. He loved the outdoors, sports, and grand kids.

Ken is survived by his wife Terry of 51 years, brothers Wendell Wood and John Hopper, sister Stephanie Walker, children Pam Wood, Angie Gesner, Leslie Wood, Kevin Wood, Erin Hazel; grandsons Jeremy Gesner, Dylan, Jaxon and Leo Hazel, and Malakhi Wood; granddaughters Alexis Wood, Kyra and Rachel Findley-Wood, and Nevaeh and Antonia Gesner.

Not Forgotten:

Kerri Lea Hamouz



Kerri Lea Hamouz passed away on January 20, 2004. She was born March 11, 1957, in Honolulu, Hawaii, to Harry Dwight Wagner and Gerri Howitz Wagner. She graduated from Mesa High School in Mesa, Ariz., and attained a bachelor of science in forestry at Colorado State University. She married Jim Hamouz in Aspen. As well as being “the perfect mom,” she loved her cat Spencer, music, movies and romance novels. She loved living in the mountains of Aspen and being outside.

She was an information specialist and later the office manager on the Aspen Ranger District of the White River National Forest. She had lived in Aspen for many years.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, daughter Whitney Hamouz, brother Mark Wagner and mother Gerri Wagner.

Robert O. (Bob) Lewis



Robert O. (Bob) Lewis died on June 7, 1991 in Prescott, AZ. He was born July 31, 1910 in Dufur, OR to Harry and Savannah Lewis. Bob received a forestry degree from Oregon State School of Forestry in 1931 and worked seasonally on the Mt. Hood N. F.

His first permanent assignment was on the Chippewa N. F. in Minnesota. In 1937 he came to the Roosevelt N. F. During World War II he was an officer in the Army Engineers. After the war, he returned to the Forest Service and worked on the White River, on the Pike as Ranger, the Uncompahgre, the Black Hills, and the Routt N. F. where he retired as Range and Wildlife Staff Officer in 1968. Bob’s wife Eleanor also worked as a fire lookout on the Black Hills as did his two sons, Tom, who is being honored this year, and Rod, who was Ranger on the Pike N. F. at Lake George. He was active in VFW affairs and active in both the Society of American Foresters and the Range Management.

He is survived by one son Rodney, of Pueblo, CO and Tom’s widow Shirley of Grand Junction.

Frank H. Wagner



Frank H. Wagner died in Canon City, CO in 1951 and was born in 1874 in Germany to Carl F. and Julia A. Wagner. He immigrated with his parents to the United States in 1885 and became a naturalized citizen in 1887 in Custer County, CO. He married Anna (1884-1975) in about 1900. Frank and Anna had four children: Ernest (1903), Julius (1906), Frank, Jr. (1907), and Marie (1909).

Frank was hired in 1906 as an Assistant Forest Ranger on the San Isabel National Forest in Westcliffe, CO. His salary was \$900 per annum. In 1910 he was promoted to Forest Ranger and had a salary of \$1200 per annum. Among his duties were locating property and marking boundaries on the San Isabel National Forest. He was regarded as a man of integrity and fairness. He left the Forest Service in 1914 to take up ranching in the Westcliffe area and lived in Ula.

He is survived by grandchildren, Gordon Wagner of Cedaredge, Larry Wagner of Pueblo, Jerry Wagner of Spokane, WA, and Diana Friel of Littleton, CO.