

2025 Memorial Grove Honorees

John W. Almond



John W. Almond passed away July 22, 2025. Born February 28, 1938, he was the son of William and Beatrice Almond.

John earned his degree in forestry from the University of Maine and received a master's degree from the University of New Hampshire. After completing his education, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked in Army Intelligence and rose to the rank of captain, reflecting his leadership and dedication.

Following his military service, John devoted his professional career to the U.S. Forest Service, where he served as a District Ranger and Forestry Planner for many years—a role that reflected his deep respect for nature and commitment to conservation.

A true outdoorsman, John found joy in hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking—passions he passed down to his children and grandchildren. He was also a loyal fan of the Boston Red Sox and the Denver Broncos. John served in many capacities in the local churches he attended throughout his life. His faith guided his actions, and he was always ready to lend a helping hand or offer words of encouragement.

After living for more than 50 years in Colorado and Wyoming, John returned to his hometown of Rochester, New Hampshire, to be closer to family and friends.

He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Doris (Ortman); his children, John D. Almond and Debbie Moenning; his grandchildren, Andrew and Taylor; and his great-grandchildren, Ruthie, Amelia, Eden, and Molly. He is also survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Lloyd and Paula Almond, and his brother and sister-in-law, Art and Dee Ortman.

Karen Bergethon



Karen Bergethon, formerly of Pueblo, CO, passed away on March 7, 2025. Karen was born on April 10, 1946, in Wheaton, Kansas. After 32 years with the U.S. Forest Service, Karen retired. She remained active within the Forest Service retiree associations. She coordinated luncheons of the PSICC retirees. Karen joined the Rocky Mountaineers in 2019 and was elected to chair of that organization in 2025.

Karen was wrangling employees on the PSICC long before the Rocky Mountaineers was created. For years, she organized some of the most entertaining program luncheons at the PSICC Supervisor's Office

There was no one who knew more about Smokey Bear than Karen. She wrote articles for Smokey's 75th birthday in the 2019 Winter edition of The Rendezvous. She collected all things Smokey and had a dedicated room in her home for the memorabilia.

Karen was also a die-hard Denver Broncos fan. The Denver Broncos may never have another fan like Karen. Even after moving to Grand Junction, she and her husband would make the trip to Denver for home games. And who can forget seeing them at the 50th Super Bowl when a TV camera caught them cheering their Broncos on to victory.

She is survived by her husband, Rik; son, Kriss Bergethon; grandchildren, Soren and Rowan; and brother, James Stapleton.

Don I. Campbell



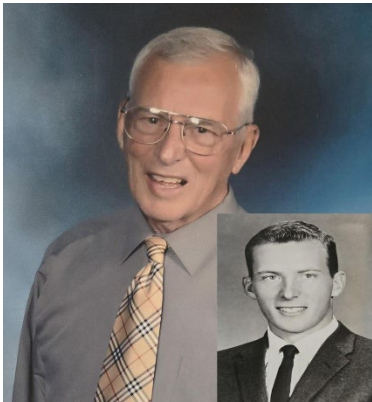
Don I. Campbell passed away on January 18, 2025. Don graduated in 1959 from Colorado State University with a degree in forestry. After graduation, he accepted a job with the U.S. Forest Service. He worked for the Forest Service for 33 years at various locations throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Don was a ranger when the Boulder and Estes Park Districts of the Roosevelt National Forest were combined in the early 1970s. Don's last assignment was in the Regional Office.

He retired from the Forest Service in 1992, and shortly thereafter, he and his wife, Carol, moved to Grand Junction, CO. Don and Carol traveled the Southwest in retirement. Don developed a love for cactus and succulents and became a sought-after expert on the subject. He founded the Chinle Cacti & Succulent Society in

Grand Junction, and he designed the widely acclaimed outdoor cactus and succulent garden at the CSU Extension Tri-River Area at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. Don became known as Don "Cactus Man" Campbell.

Survivors include his nephew, Mike Seuell, and niece, Cheri Ady.

Clarence Newton Carleton



Clarence Newton Carleton passed away on August 21, 2025, in Cedar City, Utah. He was born on November 25, 1936, in Kingsland, Georgia, to Clarence Cecil Carleton and Anna Isobel Clark.

After high school, Newton managed the family farm, later taking jobs in Price, Utah, detailing cars, and working for the Bureau of Land Management survey crew. He was a member of the National Guard, where he served as a mail clerk.

In 1960, Newton began his 30-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. On November 25, 1964, he married Ella Dean Powell. They raised six children: Lee, Connie, DeAnn, Jed, Janna, and Joy. Newton balanced roles as a bishop, dairy farm owner, and Forest Service employee. The family moved to Alamosa and Delta, Colorado, to pursue Newton's farming dreams, but later relocated to Cedar City, Utah, to help their children with their educational dreams. All six children earned bachelor's degrees—with four in education: three earning master's degrees, and one earning a doctoral degree.

Newton's kindness was boundless, always offering a "Thank you" and sharing his cherished sweets—pies, brownies, ice cream, and candies. He loved reading Louis L'Amour novels, raising sheep and cows, and farming alfalfa.

Newton is survived by his beloved wife, Ella Dean; his six children; 18 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and his surviving siblings.

Cirilia J. (Lila) Coca



Cirilia J. (Lila) Coca passed away on August 16, 2025. She was born in Laramie, WY, on July 9, 1955, to Cora and Jerry Coca. She was the third child of eleven siblings

Lila graduated from Laramie Senior High in 1973. Before graduation, she began a student internship with the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest. She was hired as a full-time employee with the U.S. Forest Service in 1974 where she started in the mailroom and worked her way up to Human Resources Specialist. Her career spanned 43 years, and she retired in 2017.

After her mother died in 2006, Lila filled the role of “mom” making sure everyone was taken care of and was doing what Grandma Coca would have wanted. She was an incredible motherly role model for her entire family.

Lila was an avid athlete, playing softball, soccer, volleyball, and bowling. She had a lovely singing voice and was a talented cake decorator, event planner, and rosary maker. She watched every episode of Gunsmoke, Murder She Wrote, and the Rifleman at least 10 times.

Lila is survived by her siblings: Treece, Elauteria, Mary Ellen, Rock, Jeff, Anthony, Laurence, and Julieann.

Philip Norman (Phil) Geenen



Philip Norman (Phil) Geenen passed away on March 21, 2025, at his residence in Custer, South Dakota.

Phil was born October 1945, in Chicago, IL, to George and Frances (Wnukowski) Geenen. He graduated from Fenger High School in 1963 and attended Chicago State University. He received his bachelor's degree in biology and education. Phil met the love of his life, Mary Ann, at an A&W Root Beer stand in Blue Island, IL. He pulled up in his 1964 GTO, and a 57-year romance began. They married in 1967. Phil was drafted into the U.S. Army that same year. He was an Army Medical Corpsman and served in Vietnam until he was discharged in 1969.

A 1978 family vacation to the Black Hills of South Dakota changed his life forever. Phil and Mary Ann decided to pack up their two daughters, Ellie and Carrie, a dog, and two cats and move to Custer. Phil worked several jobs in South Dakota: Job Service of South Dakota,

Burlington Railroad, Custer County Sheriff's Office, Outlaw Ranch, and Box Elder Police Department before getting a job at Nemo Job Corp, where he worked for about a year before entering into U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement.

Upon his retirement, Phil was very active with the Jaycees, worked with the Custer Volunteer Ambulance Service, sold Shaklee products, had a satellite business with Joe Steichen, and sanded the floors in the Crazy Horse Visitor's Center. Phil loved fishing in the beautiful lakes of the Black Hills. He mainly caught trout at Sylvan Lake, where he loved having a young passerby reel in his catch.

Phil is survived by his daughters Ellie McGraw and Carrie Wood; grandsons Corbin, Zach, and Quintin; granddaughter Elise; and brother Jerry Geenen.

Greg Alan Glasgow



Greg Alan Glasgow passed away on Jan 3, 2025. Greg was born on March 19, 1950, to Glen and Mary Glasgow in Hayden, Colorado. Greg graduated from Meeker High School in 1968. He furthered his education at Mesa State College and then transferred to Utah State University. He graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science in game management and a minor in biology.

Greg returned to Meeker and spent his early adulthood working for his father in the construction business. He played a large part in building many homes in the area. During this time, he fulfilled his dreams of successful hunts in Alaska with dear friends. Greg then went to work for the U.S. Forest Service, where he enjoyed many years as a fisheries biologist. Greg was instrumental in starting the Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation chapter in Meeker. Greg enjoyed hunting, snowmobiling, and watching wildlife.

Wyoma Jean Hansen



Wyoma Jean Hansen passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family after a long battle with cancer. She fought bravely and with dignity while never losing her positive attitude and sense of humor.

Wyoma was born in Loveland, Colorado to George W. Skinner and Ruth Skinner. She was the fourth of five children. She grew up in Leadville and Salida before moving to Saguache in the sixth grade. She graduated from Mountain Valley High School in 1970. After graduation, she worked for the FBI in Washington D.C. and then for Flash Oil in St. Louis, Missouri. After returning to Saguache, she worked at the Baca Land Company.

On the bicentennial anniversary of America, July 4, 1976, she married Ron Hansen. They shared their lives one month shy of forty-nine years. She worked several jobs in the Saguache area, including bank teller, an attorney assistant, and finally a career with the U.S. Forest Service.

After retirement, she was active in the community. She served two terms as Saguache trustee and one term as Republican Chair for Saguache County. Wyoma had many hobbies, including fishing, hunting, boating, and snowmobiling. She also shot in rifle and pistol competitions.

She is survived by husband, Ron; sons, Steven and John; sisters, Winnie Eubanks and Wanda Harrison; brother, Elton Skinner; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Charles J. (Chuck) Hendricks



Charles J. (Chuck) Hendricks passed away on May 30, 2025. He was born on August 29, 1932, to Pete and Marian Hendricks. He was raised by his grandparents in the small town of Lake Preston, South Dakota. In high school, Chuck played trumpet in the band. He attended Boys State in 1949 where he met his future wife, Donna Reetz, who was serving his dining table.

Chuck enrolled in the school of engineering at South Dakota State University in the fall of 1950. While home for the holidays in 1952, he received his Army draft notice. He served three years and was discharged in 1955. He returned to South Dakota State and graduated with a degree in agricultural engineering.

Chuck and Donna were married in 1955.

In 1958, Chuck joined the U.S. Forest Service, working on engineering assignments throughout the West. He advanced into management in 1964 and served at Clear Creek Job Corps, Superior National Forest, Shawnee National Forest, and Caribou National Forest. Chuck retired in 1992 after serving as Director of Mineral and Water Resources for the Rocky Mountain Region. He

continued working several years after retirement as a consultant, navigating federal land easements for individuals and businesses.

Chuck and Donna made many lifelong friends over the years. Always an involved church member in every community where they lived, Chuck sang baritone in the church choir. He was a handyman extraordinaire for their home, neighbors, and friends. Chuck rebuilt five classic VWs, starting with his daughter's first car, a 1965 VW convertible. Chuck and Donna traveled abroad with friends, participated in many National Association of Forest Service Retirees events, and enjoyed jazz and symphony concerts.

Chuck is survived by his daughter, Cheryl; son, Lane; and grandson, Michael.

Dennis Paul House



Dennis Paul House passed away on Friday, February 14, 2025. He was born July 10, 1945, in Cadillac, Michigan to Paul Ival and Velma June (Quibell) House.

Denny graduated from Cadillac High School and then graduated from Northwestern Michigan College. On November 12, 1964, he married Lynn A. Rennie. After college, Denny went to work as an engineer for the U.S. Forest Service, retiring after 25+ years. During his time with the Forest Service, the family moved to several beautiful places, including Colorado, California, and South Dakota. While in South Dakota, Denny and Lynn started Fast Break

Sports, which is still in operation today. After retirement, Denny started a successful third career in insurance, opening his own agency in Prescott, AZ.

Denny was a hardworking, excellent provider for his family. He was a stand-up, honest friend and businessman. Denny loved all sports, especially baseball, softball, and golf. He played, coached, and umpired for many years. Denny never passed up the moment to tell a good or bad joke.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Lynn House; daughters, Amanda Ough and Carrie House; and grandchildren, Taryn, Parker, Elizabeth, and James.

Lee Warren Jensen



Lee Warren Jensen passed away September 21, 2025, in Grand Junction, Colorado. Lee was born on September 28, 1931, in Spearfish, South Dakota. He was the eldest son of Clifford and Dorothy (Anderson) Jensen. Lee was raised in Wyoming and South Dakota. He attended Plainview Adventist Academy in Redfield, South Dakota where he met his future wife, Patricia Bieber. Lee was drafted into the United States **Marine Corps**, and was based in San Diego, California for two years. Lee and Pat were married in Tolstoy, South Dakota, on September 27, 1953. He graduated with a forestry degree from Utah State University.

His career with the U.S. Forest Service took him to Idaho, Colorado, South Dakota, and Alaska.

Lee and Pat adopted four children: Jay D., Francene, Michele, and Jeff. Lee and Pat were married for 67 years. Lee enjoyed family, hunting, fishing, camping, and cutting firewood. He was an accomplished horseman and trained most of his own horses.

Lee is survived by his children, Jay D., Francene, Michele and Jeff; nine grandchildren; and sister, Marolyn.

Jennifer Leah (Stadler-Hoffman) Lee



Jennifer Leah Lee passed away on January 22, 2025. Jennifer was born November 19, 1952, in Mitchell, South Dakota, to Donald and Irma Stadler. She was the fourth of 12 children. After high school, Jennifer moved to Vermillion, where she met and married Jeff Hoffman, with whom she had two children. They moved to Spearfish in 1979.

Jennifer raised her daughters as a single parent, first working at Pope and Talbot Sawmill, then as a daycare provider so she could be home with her two girls. She then joined the U.S. Forest Service as a payroll clerk and a front desk receptionist on the Spearfish Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest.

She met the love of her life, Jim Lee, in 1997. After she retired, they spent seven years adventuring on a catamaran sailboat and touring the country in their RV. They returned to Spearfish in 2008. Jennifer spent many of her retirement years as a caregiver for friends and family. In 2017, she took on a new adventure and purchased the Secret Garden Bed and Breakfast with her daughters and their younger stepsister.

Jennifer's hobbies were gardening, raising hens, reading, camping, and spending time with her grandchildren. Her special talents included entralling her grandchildren with spontaneous stories and fantasies, creating treasure hunts, and writing songs and poems for loved ones. She was very entertaining with her quick wit and clever puns which never disappointed as they drew both laughter and groans.

Jennifer is survived by her daughters, Lynette Thorstenson, Samantha Finkbeiner, and Sonya Donovan; stepdaughters, Shannon Rochel, Tristin Lee, Stephanie Bartels, and Belle Fourche; her grandchildren, Jenna, Kyra, Lydia, John, and Vivian; her sisters, Vicki Silvis, Donna McCullough, Judith Munger, Patricia Arnold, Pamela Sharping, Roberta Thomas, and Teresa Olson; and her brothers, David, Donald, Robert, and John.

Carolyn A. McCabe



Carolyn A. McCabe died on August 4th, 2025, at her home in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. She was born on December 1, 1943, to John and Nettie McCabe. Carolyn was raised in Carbondale and graduated from Roaring Fork High School. She attended college at Mesa College in Grand Junction.

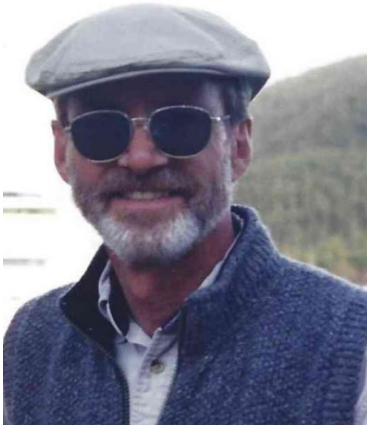
Most of her U.S. Forest Service career was on the White River National Forest with a short time on the Pike National Forest in Colorado Springs. She began her Forest Service career at the Mt. Sopris Tree Nursery in 1963. She also had assignments at the Supervisor Offices of both the White River and Pike National Forests, and the Holy Cross Ranger District and the Aspen

Ranger District.

She retired from the Forest Service in 2000. In retirement, she enjoyed time with her family, caring for her father and mother; her cats, Lizzy and Libby, who were her immediate family; and her yard and flowers. She liked to read and enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and playing solitaire. She was a good cook and enjoyed barbecuing. Carolyn was a huge sports fan, especially of the Philadelphia Eagles. She shared special friendships throughout her lifetime with not only friends but also their pets. Carolyn was a long-time parishioner at Saint Stephen Catholic Church in Glenwood Springs.

She is survived by her brothers, LeRoy and Ed; her sister Shirley Thompson; and their children and grandchildren.

Ross Alan Moncrief



Ross Alan Moncrief passed away on March 6, 2025. He was born in Aberdeen, WA, and his family made their home in several places, including Japan, as he grew up. Ross attended Flathead Valley Community College, the University of Montana, and worked on the hotshot wildland fire crew during the summers. He graduated in forestry and joined the U.S. Forest Service as a Fire Management Officer.

Ross met his wife, Elizabeth Shaw, in Utah while he was with the Forest Service, and they both worked for the agency on several forests in the Rocky Mountain Region.

He retired in 2005 as the Fire Management Officer for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest and a team member of a Type II National Wildfire Incident Management Team. They moved to Skagit Valley, WA in 2014, where he appreciated the peace and slow pace of the area.

Robert P. (Bob) Newlin



Bob Newlin, of Durango, Colorado, passed away on December 19, 2025. Born on August 24, 1931, in Casey, Illinois, Bob was the son of Walter and Gladys Newlin. As a young man, Bob earned the rank of Eagle Scout—a clear sign of the dedication and leadership that would follow him throughout his career and personal life.

Bob graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in agriculture, then joined the **Air Force** as an officer and earned the rank of Major. After being discharged from the Air Force, he continued his education at Colorado State University, earning a degree in forestry. His career with the U.S. Forest Service spanned more than 30 years on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison,

Bighorn, San Juan N. F.'s , Regional Office, and back to San Juan. His work reflected not only his professional knowledge but also his personal love for nature and the land.

Bob married his loving wife, Jan, in Wyoming, a partnership lasting 59 years. They raised two sons, Bret and Kurt. In 1984, Bob, Jan, and the boys settled in Durango, a community they quickly came to cherish. Bob was heavily involved with civic and social organizations, including the Lions Club, the Elks Club, the Durango Coffee Club, and the American Legion.

Bob filled his life with hobbies that spoke to his zest for life. He found joy behind a camera lens, on the slopes, hunting, and on the golf course. A loyal Denver Broncos fan, Bob could be counted on for spirited commentary on game day. Bob will be remembered for his humor, his generosity, his deep love for family, the outdoors, and the community he called home.

He is survived by his wife, Jan; his sons, Bret and Kurt; and his three cherished grandchildren, Adrienne, Alaina, and Finn.

Wayne Maurice Quade



Wayne Maurice Quade passed away on July 4, 2025. He was born to Francis and Virginia Quade in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on March 22, 1941, and grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Early in his life, he became passionate about Boy Scouts, becoming an Eagle Scout in 1958. Wayne graduated from Leelanau Boarding School in Glen Arbor, Michigan, and attended the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, graduating with a B.S. degree. After graduation, he served in the Air Force, working as a technician on Air Force bombers. After his discharge from the Air Force, he attended the University of Montana and graduated with a master's degree in Natural Resources.

His 37-year career with the U.S. Forest Service included stations in Alaska, Montana, and Colorado. After retirement, he continued to advocate for natural resources locally with Colorado Parks and Recreation. He was a passionate outdoors adventurer and resource advisor.

As a leader in the Boy Scouts of America, Wayne received a 70-years of Service to Scouting Award. He attended four World Jamborees, four National Jamborees, and was a volunteer educator at Philmont Scout Ranch. Wayne was a 32nd Degree Mason, a member of the Scottish Rites, and the Eastern Stars. He received the Mason's Daniel Carter Beard Medal, honoring his commitment to bringing the ideals of scouting to young men. Wayne was co-founder of the Montrose Citizens' Climate Lobby, a board member of the Friends of the Himalayas, and a supporter of the Ute Indian Museum. He was a lifelong member of the Christian Science Church.

He is survived by his sister, Marilyn Siems; his brother, David Quade; and nieces and nephews, Christine, Charles, Allison, and Jonathan.

Robert (Bob) Eugene Russell



Bob Russell, of Spearfish, South Dakota, passed away on September 26, 2025, at the VA Community Living Center in Fort Meade, South Dakota. Bob was born at the Fort Meade VA Hospital on June 21, 1934, to Hamilton and Lydia Russell.

Bob attended Lead High School, where he met his future wife, Marilyn Mueller. He graduated in 1952 and enlisted in the Navy, proudly serving his country until 1956. He continued his service with the South Dakota Army National Guard until 1978.

Bob worked at the Homestake Gold Mine before beginning his education at Black Hills Teachers College. He earned his bachelor's degree in education in 1962 and went on to work at the Plankinton State Training Center and with the South Dakota Forest Service during the summers.

Bob joined the Nemo Job Corps in 1964. He retired from the Job Corps as the Recreation Director in 1989 after 25 years of service. He concluded his career as the Recreation Director at the Student Union at Black Hills State College.

Bob loved fishing, camping, hiking, and driving in the Black Hills. He enjoyed carpentry, sports, and, most of all, time with his family. He never missed a chance to support his children and grandchildren. Bob always had a twinkle in his eye. His smile, his chuckle that shook his body, his growl, and his dozens of one-liners and nicknames let you know he really cared about you.

Bob is survived by his five children: Valorie Olso, Becky Harshman, Wanda, Mark, and Scott Russell. He was blessed with 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Royal Ryser



Royal M. Ryser passed away on November 6, 2025. He was born near Agenda, KS, on Sept 26, 1934, to Frank and Martha Ryser. He attended a one-room country school for three years, then moved to Effingham, KS to finish high school. In 1943, at age eight, he met Regina Happel; they graduated from high school together in 1952 and married in 1953.

He joined the US Navy in 1952, and served in the Seabees as an equipment operator. Royal graduated from Kansas State University in 1959 with a degree in civil engineering.

Most of his career with the U.S. Forest Service was spent in California, Arizona, and Colorado. Royal had great pride in serving in the Navy and working for

the Forest Service. His Navy service provided a gateway to a university engineering degree, and the Forest Service work offered a way to protect and utilize the natural resources of the forests.

Royal liked woodworking, hunting, and old cars. He served in many capacities in several United Methodist Churches. He was President of the Campfire Girls Council, a position that gave him great satisfaction.

Royal is survived by daughters Joy Medina, Ann Kolonics, and Karen Flynn; and grandchildren Molly, Sam, Max, and Will.

Gerald Dean Scott



Gerald Dean Scott, of Custer, SD, passed away August 7, 2025. Gerald was born August 18, 1933, in Edgemont, SD, to Ralph and Madge Scott. He graduated from Edgemont High School in 1953, and was inducted into the United States Army, where he served with the 561st Engineer Port Construction Company.

After his discharge from the Army, Gerald began working with the U.S. Forest Service on a temporary ten-month basis; then he would be "laid off" for at least two months before he could be rehired. When his ten-month status was up, he would work for Campbell Chevrolet. He went back to the Forest Service for two more "ten-month hitches" before being offered a permanent position, which he held until his retirement in 1994. During his thirty years with the Forest Service, he worked as a heavy equipment operator, involved in building and maintaining roads, constructing small dams, brush disposal, and firefighting.

After his retirement, he and Kathleen started a craft business out of their home, making trophies and plaques for organizations, businesses, and county fairs in South Dakota and Wyoming. After Kathleen's death, Gerald became interested in beekeeping and would distribute the honey to many of the town's residents.

Gerald is survived by his daughter, Cynthia Bostrom; daughter-in law, Denise Scott; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Frank S. (Stan) Vallejos



Frank S. Vallejos, of Pueblo West, Colorado, passed away on December 3, 2024. Frank was a range management specialist on the Rio Grande National Forest and then on the Pike San Isabel National Forests, Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

Frank was an avid outdoorsman. He loved spending his time at the family ranch, but most of all he loved spending time with his family. He enjoyed going out to eat. His favorite part of the meal was dessert.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Melinda; and sisters, Elvira and Margaret Chacon.

Steve Robert R. Vest



Stephen Vest passed away on December 4, 2025, in Duluth, Georgia. He was born in Emporia, Kansas, on December 27, 1941, to Fenton and Edna Vest.

Stephen lived a life rich with purpose, passion, and dedication to both his family and his profession as a fire boss with the U.S. Forest Service.

Stephen devoted many years of his life to serving on the Pike San Isabel National Forest, where he worked as a lookout at Devil's Head Fire Tower, before transitioning to fire boss until his retirement in 1996. His colleagues remember him as a respected leader, a dedicated protector of nature, and a passionate advocate for forestry.

Stephen lived with integrity and devotion, making his home in a small log cabin nestled in the woods outside of Bailey, Colorado, where he found joy in the simple pleasures of life: chopping wood to heat his home, hiking the trails, and losing himself in the pages of a good book.

Stephen is survived by his son, Ryan.

Douglas A. (Doug) Wagner



Doug Wagner was born August 15, 1946, in St. Thomas, ND and passed away November 20, 2025 in Wheat Ridge, CO. He loved classical music and graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in music education. He went on to get an associate's degree in electronics before enlisting in the Army, where he played trombone in the Army Band in Virginia and Alaska.

Doug began his Forest Service career in 1993 working in Visitor Information Services in the R2 Regional Office before becoming a computer technician. He worked on numerous wildfires during the summer months throughout his career, providing computer support to Incident Management Teams all over the country. In 1995, and in

addition to his regular duties, he joined the Fiddlin' Foresters (who were the official old-time string band of the US Forest Service) playing bass and singing harmony vocals. For almost a decade, he traveled with the band to a variety of events nationwide performing musical programs that educated audiences on the history of the Forest Service, the value of America's public lands and challenges facing natural resources today. A notable event during his time with the Fiddlin' Foresters was representing the US Forest Service at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT.

After more than two decades with the Forest Service, Doug eventually retired and found time to learn the French horn which he played for several years with the Castle Rock Orchestra. He also had the opportunity to conduct the Lakewood Symphony Orchestra after his wife won it for him at the Orchestra's silent auction one year.

Doug loved attending his children's music and theater performances, model railroading, old time radio, history (especially World War II and the Big Band era), football, and all the many family pets. He looked forward to camping trips with family and friends and was especially looking forward to the birth of his first grandchild in February 2026.

Doug is survived by his loving wife, Linda, daughter Jennifer, twins Ashley and Will, son-in-law Damon and new grandson, and is deeply missed by all who knew him.

John P. (Dutch) Wierenga



John P. (Dutch) Wierenga, 84, passed away on December 5, 2025. He was born on April 2, 1941, in Muskegon, Michigan, and spent his early school years in Denver, Colorado, where he developed the grit and work ethic that would shape the rest of his life. Dutch proudly served in the United States Army from 1960 to 1963 as a Combat Engineer specializing in mine warfare while stationed in Germany and retired as a SP5. A no-nonsense man through and through, he carried that same straightforward toughness into his career with the White River National Forest.

For more than 31 years, based in Glenwood Springs, he worked as a blaster and was responsible for back-country operations, road maintenance, blasting safety training, and installing and maintaining facilities throughout the White River area. He was

known for doing things the right way the first time, with a cowboy's grit and an engineer's precision.

In 1996 he married Margaret Brown and together they built their home and family in Glenwood Springs. After retiring from the Forest Service, Dutch and Margaret moved to Parachute, Colorado, in 1997, where he enjoyed a quieter pace of life—though he never fully let go of his cowboy spirit. Dutch's final wish was to be set free on Windy Point, a place he loved deeply. His family will honor that wish this coming spring. Dutch lived his life simply, honestly, and exactly the way he wanted. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Dutch is survived by his wife, Margaret; his daughter Deborah (Joe Sternberger); daughter Shannon Darlene Muse (Dan); son Russell Brown (Sandi); and four grandchildren: Jesse Gilmer, Hailey Brown, Hunter Brown, and Christopher Wierenga. He is also survived by his sister Peggy Farewell (Rich) of Arvada, Colorado, and his brother Mike Wierenga (Kathy) of Palisade, Colorado.