

2020 Memorial Grove Honorees

Marcus Albert Arnold	PSICC, Shoshone, and Routt N. F.s and R.O.
David Edward Barth	Arapaho-Roosevelt N. F.s
Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger	White River, Routt, Pike, Black Hills N. F.s and R. O.
Duane Lu Allen Bury	Black Hills N. F.
Debra L. (Debbie) Cito	Regional Office
Betty Fay Cowles	Black Hills N. F.
Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer	Regional Office
Fred Adam Fichtner	Med. Bow, Black Hills, and Bighorn N. F.s
Johnnie Gayle Flaget	Rio Grande N. F.
Pete Nicholas Garcia	Rio Grande N. F.
Ernest LeRoy (Ernie) Hoffman	Black Hills N. F.
Freda Marie Jensen	Shoshone N. F.
Kenneth Efton (Ken) Marler	Medicine Bow, Rio Grande, and PSICC N.F.s
Alfonso (Al) Martinez	Medicine Bow-Routt N. F. s
Ronald William Mertens Sr.	Black Hills N. F.
Patricia (Pat) Mitchell	PSICC, San Carlos District
Bruce Harold Morgan	R. O., PSICC, San Juan, GMUG NFs, R-3 and R-6
Steven Wayne Mosier	PSICC, Helitack Foreman
Ernie Nesbit	Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison N. F.s
Gerald W. Nyborg	Medicine Bow, Shoshone, and Routt N. F. s
Ronald L. Paris	Shoshone N. F.
Vincent (Vince) Parrino	Regional Office
Arthur (Leigh) Reeves	Black Hills N. F.

Robert R. (Bob) Rhodes	R.O., Med. Bow, Bighorn, RioGrande, Gunnison and Pike
Walter Wright (Walt) Rule	Uncompahgre N. F., Roosevelt, Black Hills, R-8
Michael Mark Sanders	Medicine Bow N. F. and several forests in R-8
Charles Lee (Chuck) Simon	Bighorn, Medicine Bow, Gunnison N.F.s and R. O.
William Carroll (Bill) Starr, Jr.	Regional Office
R. G. (Bob) Steverson	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.s
Kathleen Faye (Kay) Stoner	Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison N. F.s
Helen E. (Austin) Williams	Arapaho-Roosevelt N. F.
Charles L. (Charlie) Wright	Shoshone N. F., R-3 various positions
Dean Donald Young	Black Hills N. F.

Marcus Albert Arnold

Marcus Albert Arnold died on August 31, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. He was born in Denver, CO on February 3, 1932 to his parents W. Jacob and Elizabeth Arnold and he had 5 siblings. He grew up and his schooling was in Colorado. He married Wynona Schissler on July 26, 1952 in Denver. In 1960 he was a clerk on the Pike N. F. and became the Administrative Assistant in 1961. He then moved to the Regional Office in Denver and was the Administrative Assistant for the Engineering unit there. In 1967 he became the Administrative Assistant on the Routt N. F. and then in 1971 to the Shoshone N. F. in Wyoming. In 1976 he moved to the Prescott N. F. in Arizona and then in 1978 he moved back to the Rocky Mountain Region on the Pike San Isabel Cimarron Comanche N. F.s and N.G.s as the Administrative Assistant. He retired in 1984.

He is survived by his wife Wynona and children Charlene, Mark, and Dennis.

David Edward Barth

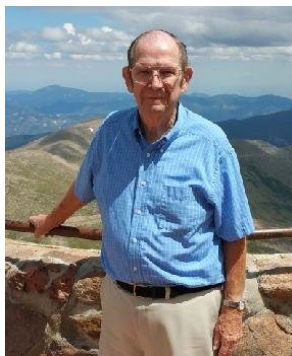


David Edward Barth passed away on February 2, 2020 in Ft. Collins, CO. He was born December 22, 1952 to Clifford U. and Kathryn V. Barth in Alliance, Nebraska. From a young age, David enjoyed being outdoors – skiing, hiking, golfing, fishing, hunting and horseback riding. He was active in band and sports in high school. After getting a degree from Nebraska Western College, David worked in construction and a factory in Scottsbluff before moving to Laramie, WY.

At age 33 he suffered a cerebral bleed and was in a coma for several months in Fort Collins. He persevered and began his recovery, relearning how to talk, how to take care of himself, and how to get around in a wheelchair. He was very determined to be on his own and through much work he was able to live independently. David took computer classes and became quite proficient and began his work with the Forest Service where he worked until he retired in 2018.

David is survived by the joy of his life daughter Stephanie Barth and granddaughter Ali of Hastings, Nebraska; his mother Kathryn Barth of Crawford, Nebraska; his brother James Barth; his sister Ellen Gartner; two nieces, one nephew, and several grandnieces and grandnephews.

Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger



Alfred Lee (Al) Buerger of Arvada, CO passed away on July 10th, 2020. Al was born in Ponca City, OK, on August 5, 1935 to Fritz and Emma Buerger. He graduated at South High in Denver and served in the Army. He then married Betty Siminoe from Palisade, CO sixty years ago last July. He graduated from CSU in 1962 with a degree in Civil Engineering has his Professional Engineering License.

Al and Betty had three children: sons David and Steve, and a daughter Katherine. He was a civil engineer for the Forest Service on the White River, the Routt, the Pike National Forests, and the Regional Office. In 1965 he worked at constructing the Job Corps facility in Chadron, NE. In 1972 moved to the Black Hills in Spearfish. Al designed roads and bridges and inspected construction projects. He was active with his Lutheran churches and Boy Scouts. After retirement from the Forest Service, he spent ten years with FEMA.

Al is survived by his wife, Betty; three children; David, Steven, and Katherine Shoop and their families. He had four grandchildren; Elizabeth, Justin, Autumn and Elijah; and two great grandchildren; Samuel and Zoey.

Duane Lu Allen Bury



Duane Lu Allen Bury, 93, passed away on Sunday November 8th, 2020. He was born on July 14th, 1927 in Bristol SD to Arthur and Amanda Bury. Duane worked on his parent's farm in Bristol until he enlisted in the Army in 1945, serving two terms. He was discharged in 1952 and began his 34-year career with the Forest Service as a General District Assistant. He was an extremely hard worker and treated everyone with respect.

He married Phyllis Dryer on March 20th, 1955 and made their home on the Black Hills for 56 years where they raised three boys Randy, Kenny, and Larry. Duane was a volunteer fireman and member of the VFW, American Legion, Masonic Lodge, and Eastern Star. Duane loved the outdoors especially fishing, gardening, and camping. He enjoyed woodworking and loved family get-togethers and especially enjoyed camping with his wife, their boys, their spouses and grandchildren.

Duane is survived by his wife Phyllis, sons Randy (Velma) of Newcastle, WY Ken (Beth) of Rapid City, daughter-in-law Cora of Spearfish and six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Betty Fay Cowles



Betty Fay Cowles passed away Dec. 19, 2020, peacefully at her home with her loving family at her side, following a lengthy illness of pulmonary fibrosis.

Betty was born on October 30, 1939 in Newcastle, Wyo., to Bayard and Ada (Cullum) Huber, and after the passing of her father, she was blessed with Roy Stevens for a stepfather.. Her first home was in Spotted Horse, WY and later moved to Newcastle. She married Rock Cowles in 1958, and became a military wife for the next 20 years. To this union, three children were born. They enjoyed the adventures and journeys the Air Force provided them in Rapid City, Puerto Rico, Grand Forks, N.D., Spokane, WA, and finally retiring

in Newcastle to settle down and start their second chapter in 1975.

She worked at Sears Roebuck, First State Bank and later retired from the Forest Service. Betty's number one priority was always her family. She attended every possible school and sporting event of her children and grandchildren. Each and every one of them was her pride and joy. She was one of the proudest mothers and grandmothers you could ever meet. They spent great times at their cabin near Thompson Canyon. She enjoyed cross-stitch embroidery, knitting and crocheting, many of her masterpieces decorate her home. Her greatest passion was playing cards and "skunking" everyone as she boasted and bragged of her winning.

She made many friendships over the years with her Bridge club ladies to whom they often ended their afternoons with their “boxed” wine and many laughs. She loved her get-togethers and always had a good time.

She is survived by her husband, Rock, of 62 years, three children, Shawnda (Mike) Morrison, Parm Cowles (Kevin Haskins), and Cody (Camie) Cowles; six grandchildren, Tara, Joe, Kendra, Ryan, Brooklyn and Branson; and six great-grandchildren, Bode, Pryce, Sophia, Bentley, Lilly, and Hunter.

Debra L. (Debbie) Cito



Debra L. (Debbie) Cito passed away peacefully on October 21, 2020 after battling multiple sclerosis for over 35 years. She was extremely tough and fought the disease while staying positive and happy. She loved spending time with her family and friends. Debbie was loved by so many people and had a beautiful smile. She loved the Broncos and would not miss a game. She is now at peace and not suffering. She will be missed by all that love her. She worked for many years in the Regional Office and was part of the clerical staff in Renewable Resources and later in the Engineering staff.

She is survived by two daughters Tracy York and one granddaughter.

Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer

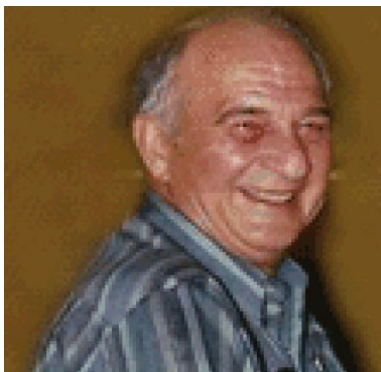


Charles F. (Chuck) Dwyer, 98, of Lakewood, CO, passed away January 9, 2020. Chuck was born in Denver, CO May 17, 1921. He attended Wheat Ridge High School and the University of Colorado at Boulder where he earned a degree in Civil Engineering. He enlisted in the Navy in December, 1942, achieved the rank of Lieutenant, and served in the Amphibious Forces in both the European and Pacific Theatres in World War II was honorably discharged in 1946.

Chuck married Lois Sturgeon in 1948 and lived in Lakewood. He was a Registered Professional Engineer and passenger ropeway specialist for both the ski industry and Forest Service from 1946 to until 1987 when he retired. He was an advisor to the Colorado Passenger Tramway Safety Board and was a member of the National Standards Committee which prepared safety requirements for passenger ropeways. He founded several organizations in the ropeway industry. Chuck was a devoted family man. He had many lifetime hobbies including skiing, hiking, bicycling, square dancing, and motorcycling, which he took up after his retirement in 1987. He started the Model A Club of Colorado.

He is survived by his daughters Valerie, Janet, and Julie and their families including, grandson Justin Marr and granddaughter Breanne, and three great-granddaughters, Avery, Quincy and Camber.

Fred Adam Fichtner



Fred Adam Fichtner, 92, of Sheridan, WY passed away on October 30th in Sheridan. He was born June 10th 1928 in Rapelje, Montana, the son of Fred and Katherine Fichtner. Fred graduated from Lovell High School, Lovell, WY in 1946 and then proudly served in the Wyoming National Guard and was deployed to Korea with the 300th Armored Field Artillery in 1950. In 1957 he married Pauline Massey in Custer, SD and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Masters in Range Management.

Fred worked for the Forest Service for over 30 years working in Laramie, Douglas, and Newcastle. He finished his career in Sheridan as District Ranger. Upon retirement Fred spent his golden years as owner and operator of Fred's Framing. His professional and beautiful frame work is displayed at many homes and businesses in Sheridan. He was a loyal member of The American Legion. Fred was an avid outdoorsman, loved to ski, hunt and fish as do his children and grandchildren now

He is survived by his wife Pauline, five children; Eugenie, Francine, Fred Fichtner, Georgia, and Louis along with families including eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren.

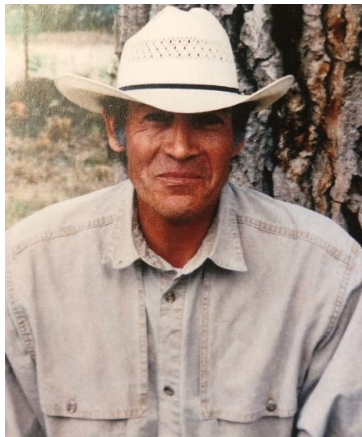
Johnnie Gayle Flaget



Johnnie Gayle Flaget passed away on June 10, 2020 from COVID-19. Johnnie was born in Great Falls, MT July 8, 1943 to Johnnie and Henrietta Flaget and moved to Frenchtown, MT in 1956. The summer before his senior year he became employed with the Forest Service, little did he know it would become his career. He graduated from Frenchtown High School in 1961. He served during the Vietnam in the Army and then married Vera Fryday on July 8, 1972 and instantly became a father to Suzette and Bob and a year later their son John was born. He retired from the Forest Service after working for more than 40 years, including many years on the Rio Grande N. F. and finally at San Dias Technology and Development Center. He loved being outdoors and took pride in the work he did with the Forest Service. He lived his life with integrity, was a gentleman, and had a special sense of humor. He was a loving husband, an involved father, a fun grandpa and a dedicated friend with many friendships.

He is survived by his wife Vera, his daughter Suzette Dufresne; his two sons Bob Fryday and John Flaget; nine grandchildren, Karissa, Dean, Wyatt and Grace Dufresne, Taylor Crusch, Jordan Fryday, Kennady Steele, Kassedy Flaget and Maddie Braun; and four great-grandchildren, Joey, Leelynd, Emma and Bentley.

Pete Nicolas Garcia



Pete Nicolas Garcia, 74, of Saguache, CO went to his eternal rest on October 25, 2020 at his home, under Hospice Care with his loving family by his side. Pete was born on May 24, 1946 in Saguache the beloved son of Salvador B. Garcia and Casimira Mondragon Garcia. Pete proudly served in the Navy. After he completed his duties in the service, he went on to work for the U.S. Forest Service for many years. Pete was a loving brother, uncle, cousin and friend who enjoyed doing art work, being in the mountains, going arrowhead hunting, fishing, and he loved being with his family and friends.

Survivors include his sisters Lorraine Lopez of Saguache, CO; Carolyn White of Monte Vista, CO; and brother Raymond. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ernest LeRoy (Ernie) Hoffman



Ernest LeRoy (Ernie) Hoffman passed away on August 21, 2020. He was born on October 19, 1931 in Lead, S.D to Lafayette and Evalina Hoffman and spent his childhood in the Black Hills. After his father died in 1948, he quit school and took a job to support the family. In 1951, he joined the Army and served three years, including a year in Korea during the Korean War.

After his discharge from the Army and joined the Forest Service, where he worked for 29 years as a fire lookout, file clerk, fleet mechanic, heavy equipment operator, heavy truck driver, Job Corps instructor, equipment specialist, and finally fleet manager for the Black Hills. He was always known as the man who could solve any problem and would always take care of those around him. Ernie had many close friends and enjoyed spending time with them and making them laugh, especially with his classic one-liners. He always had a project going and worked hard his whole life.

He is survived by his wife for 27 years, Sandy; children David and Sharon; step-children Traci and Todd; grandchildren Jeanette, Nicole, Travis, and Stephanie; and five great grandchildren.

Freda Marie Jensen



Freda Marie Jensen, 87, died, Saturday, July 11, 2020 with family at her side. Born Freda Marie Wolf to Fredrick (Fritz) and Edna Wolf, she spent her childhood living on her grandmother's homestead in Worland. At 19, she married Harry Jensen. Six years later Freda and Harry moved their little family to Meeteetse where their children were provided with a loving and unforgettable childhood.

In addition to raising her kids, she played piano at school functions, did bookkeeping for various businesses and was always sewing something for somebody. She worked for the Forest Service as District Clerk Shoshone N. F. at Meeteetse) and retired in the late 70's. She had fond memories of "breaking in the new rangers" and developed lifetime friendships with many. They moved to Egypt where she loved traveling, shopping, and playing golf next to the pyramids. Pretty awesome for a rural girl from Wyoming! After Harry retired, they built their dream home in Cody.

Freda is survived by her brother Jim Wolf, children Jon Jensen, Jocelyn Sporer, and Jessica Wentz; and her grandchildren Alyson, Jennie, Sid, Ashley, and Charli; and seven great-grandchildren McKinsey, Hadly, HayDn, Huxly, Jens, Tilly and Stone.

Kenneth Efton (Ken) Marler



Kenneth Efton (Ken) Marler of Colorado Springs, passed away on January 9, 2020. Ken was born to Ted & Ruth Marler on February 11, 1945 in Lawrence, Kansas. He spent most of his childhood growing up in Kansas and Oklahoma. He met his wife, Gwen while working summers in the Big Horn Mountains. They married in Sheridan, Wyoming in 1967.

Ken graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1966, with a degree in Agriculture. He served in the Army from 1967-1970, where he was stationed in Germany. He began his career as a forester with the Forest Service in 1970. Ken worked on the Medicine Bow/Routt at Encampment; the Rio Grande at Creede and Monte Vista.; and on the PSICC in Colorado Springs and in S.O. In 2002, he retired after 32 years of service. In his retirement he and Gwen bought and sold antiques. Ken enjoyed camping, fishing and being outdoors. He will be remembered for his kind nature, love for family and friends and his wonderful sense of humor!

He is survived by his twin daughters Angela Kammerer and Heather Engle; grandson Jake, sister Carol Ann Young.

Alfonzo (Al) Martinez



Alfonzo (Al) Martinez passed away on March 18, 2020 in Cheyenne, WY. Al was born on August 18, 1934 in Mora, New Mexico. When he was 12 the family moved to Laramie, WY. He was married to Joyce Vialpando and they had two sons, Duane and Jamie. Al was foreman of the road maintenance crew on the Medicine Bow National Forest for many years. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, bowling, and of course spending time with the grandchildren and great grandchildren. He enjoyed cooking and his specialty was chicken chili.

He is survived by his wife Joyce and his two sons Duane and Jamie and their families, including six grandchildren—Jacob, Crissy, Alena, Wyatt, Jordan, and Ciara, and also 5 great grandchildren.

Ronald William Mertens Sr.

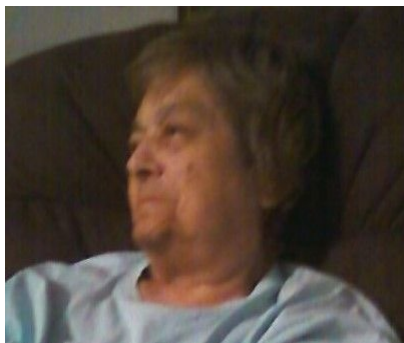


Ronald William Mertens Sr. passed away April 16, 2020 in Custer. He was born December 14, 1935, to William and Elina (Erbe) Mertens, in Wadena County, MN. He graduated from Staples High School in Staples, MN. Ron entered the Air Force January 21, 1953. Ron met the love of his life while at Ellsworth AFB and married Barbara on February 3, 1957, after being honorably discharged from the service. They had four children Diana; Ron Jr; Karen and Todd.

Ron worked for the Forest Service for thirty years on the Black Hills retiring on July 1, 1985 and then worked for Custer State Park until 2012. Ron's passions were many including fishing, hunting, cooking, and self-taught carpentry. But the passion that made his heart most full was spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren

Ronald is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Diana; son, Ronald Jr.; daughter, Karen; son, Todd; brother, James; sister, Ardy Baxter; grandchildren, Nicholas, Michael, Sara Barrick, Casey; Sara Zimmerman; Heather; Paige, Jozey; great grandchildren, Jersey, Phoenix, Oaklie, Kaylie, Keeli and Syfina..

Patricia (Pat) Mitchell



Patricia (Pat) Mitchell passed away on May 11, 2020. Pat was born on December 14, 1940 to Micheal and Veronica Semachko in Uniontown, PA. She moved to Pueblo, CO in 1960 when she married Marvin Mitchell in Washington, DC.

Pat worked for the Forest Service on the Pike-San Isabel National Forest for 25 years as the District Administrative Assistance / Support Service Specialist, along with working various projects and areas on the forest. She touched the lives of many who worked with her and she was referred to as *Moma Pat* by many.

She brought laughter and smiles to the office. Pat did several fire details in her career, including Alaska, Idaho, Montana, and Oregon, to name a few, retiring in 1994. Pat enjoyed visiting her family and children across the country after retirement. Pat also worked at Hobbs Carpeting and Target in Pueblo after retiring. Her hobby was sewing.

Pat is survived by her daughters, Debbie and Karen Semachko, and sons Mark and David; 6 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren; sister Jean Potkul and brother Vincent Semachko.

Bruce Harold Morgan



Bruce Harold Morgan passed away at his home in Montana on August 28, 2020. He was born on August 1, 1931 in Eckley, CO to Earl and Rema Morgan. He grew up in northeast Colorado and graduated from Colorado A & M in Fort Collins with a degree in engineering.

He first worked in the Regional Office in Engineering in the 60's. In 1967 he went to the San Juan N. F. as Forest Engineer. In 1972 he transferred to Region 6 on the Umatilla N. F., but returned to Region 2 in 1976 on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison N. F.s. In 1978, he became the DFS on the Apache Sitgreaves N. F. in R-3 at Springerville, AZ and in 1980 was back as Forest Supervisor on the Pike San Isabel NFs and Cimarron Comanche NGs.

After retirement in 1982 he and his wife Iola moved to a ranch near Montrose. They loved horses and Bruce rode with the Roundup Riders of the Rockies for many years. In 2017 they moved to Arlee, Montana to support the family of their daughter Michel who was critically injured in an automobile accident. Michel died in 2018.

He is survived by his wife Iola Aleen (Ole) and daughters Teresa in Oregon, Debra in Michigan, and Tracy in West Virginia.

Steven Wayne Mosier



Steve Wayne Mosier died on July 23, 2020. Steve was born in Pueblo, CO to Ross E. and Mary L. Mosier on March 17, 1965. He joined his sister Karen E. and brother David R. The whole family loved outdoor activities and spent many vacations camping, fishing and exploring many parts of Colorado and surrounding states. After high school Steve enlisted in the Army where he served for twenty years and was a veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Operation Desert Storm.

Steve worked for the Larimer County Sheriff's Office Wildland Fire crew and was on many forest fires with his father and brother. He then went to work for the U.S. Forest Service on the Helitack crew based in Monument, CO. Steve returned to Fort Collins and was employed by the City of Fort Collins. Steve's hobbies included camping, hiking, other outdoor activities and beekeeping. He also enjoyed spending many hours with his nephews.

Steve is survived by his mother Mary Mosier of Fort Collins; sister Karen and brother David. He also leaves behind two beloved nephews, Sean and Daniel.

Ernie Nesbit



Ernie Nesbit of Gunnison passed away on July 31, 2020. Ernie was born on the family ranch in the Quartz Creek Valley and graduated from Gunnison high school in 1949. In 1959 he began work with the Forest Service in Gunnison as an Engineering Technician where he stayed until his retirement in 1991. One of his proudest accomplishments was to survey the original Cottonwood Pass Road. He lived to see Cottonwood finally paved and was honored to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and good to his word that if Cottonwood were ever paved, he would provide a champagne toast.

During his USFS career he also served as the Logistics Service Chief on the Region 2 Fire Fighting Overhead Team. He traveled to 9 states in that region, from New Mexico to Alaska, coordinating the logistics for major wildfires. Following his retirement from the Forest Service Ernie began working for Gunnison County as an engineer. He was an accomplished horseman and respected for his common sense.

Ernie is survived by his wife Patricia and daughters Tammy Scott and Kim Nesbit both of Gunnison and sister Zelma Kreuger.

Gerald W. Nyborg



Gerald W. Nyborg passed away February 14, 2020. He was born April 18, 1928 in Ashton, ID to Andrew Nyborg and Rhoda Nyborg. He grew up on the family ranch/farm on Conant Creek East of Drummond, ID and attended grade school in a one-room log schoolhouse and graduated from Ashton High School.

He served in the Air Force during the Korean War as a radar operator and after being discharged he married Juanita on May 4, 1956. After graduating from Utah State University with a forestry degree, he and his young family with three children moved to Colorado for his first Forest Service. He worked as a forest ranger and staff officer on national forests in both Colorado and Wyoming, on the Routt, Shoshone, and Medicine Bow forests. Following retirement he and his wife moved to Rexburg, ID. He was a great lover of the outdoors and the mountains of the west and took every opportunity to be in their presence by hiking, horseback riding, skiing, bicycling or whatever means available.

He is survived by his wife, Juanita, and their three children - Debra, Linda, and Ronald, and their families, including nine grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren, a brother, Milton, and a sister, Elna Sullivan.

Ronald Lee Paris



Ronald Lee Paris died on July 9, 2020 in Overton, Nevada. He was born November 22, 1943 in Sinclair, WY to Walter Howard and Clara Paris. Ron was raised and educated in Sinclair and Rawlins, and later he attended college at BYU. Ron always valued his relationship with "The Sinclair Kids" and enjoyed their reunions.

He held various jobs throughout his life including Union Pacific Railroad, Cream O' Weber Dairy, Teleprompter reporting the weather and sports events on local TV, and Arch Minerals. For a time he ran his own electrical business in Dubois, Wyoming. He later worked for the Dubois School District and finally for the Forest Service where he retired in 2009. Always service oriented, he served two terms as the Dubois Mayor. Ron was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved camping with family and friends and riding ATV's. He enjoyed many hobbies like woodworking and rock hounding. He was a member of the Elks Lodge for 56 years.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Murle of Overton, NV; two step sons and one step daughter: Mike Clegg; Jamie Hooker, and Jeff Clegg and families including six grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

Vincent (Vince) Parrino



Vincent (Vince) Parrino passed away March 29, 2020, in Lakewood, CO. He was born in New Rochelle, NY on December 4, 1923 to Joseph Parrino and Mary Giuliano Parrino. Vince grew up in New Rochelle, and met Dorothy, while they were both students at Southwest Missouri State College in Springfield. They were married nearly 71 years and had five children. Vince served in the Navy during World War II, from 1944-1946 as a Radioman.

A life-long learner, Vince received a Master's degree from Columbia University, and wanted to teach but his career ended up taking him as communication specialist and cartographer to several locations in the west and finally to Denver with the Forest Service for 20 years. After retirement, he and Dorothy loved seeing new places, he worked on carpentry projects, and they enjoying friends, but his dream of teaching never left and he began tutoring students. He finally got his teaching certificate and taught science and math. At age 87, Vince was awarded the 2011 Senior Hero Award for his teaching efforts. Even after finally retiring from teaching, he continued to tutor young people in his home until shortly before he died.

Vince is survived by three daughters, Susan, Mary, Julia, and one son, Joseph. Their families include eight grandchildren: Katie, Julia, Christina, Michael, Alan, Anna, Sarah, and Benjamin; and one great-grandchild: Luke.

Arthur (Leigh) Reeves



Arthur (Leigh) Reeves of Custer, SD passed away on Saturday, April 25, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. He was born February 07, 1934 in Rochester, NY to Albert Arthur Reeves, Jr and Florence (Dickinson). Leigh received a B.S. Degree from SUNY College of Forestry, Syracuse University in 1956. Upon return from serving the Army in Germany during the Korean War, Leigh and Sunny (Sundstrom) were married December 6, 1958 in Rochester, NY.

Leigh worked for the Forest Service in several locations before settling in Custer with his family and worked for the Black Hills until his retirement in 1983 where he made many lifelong friends. After retirement he learned the craft of building log homes. Leigh enjoyed nothing more than being in the great outdoors of the Black Hills fishing at a lake, hunting pheasant or deer, working on his land running irrigation or spending time at his beloved ranch on Carroll Creek Road followed by a cold beer with friends at the end of a day.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sunny, their son Kevin and daughter Becki Clarke along with four grandchildren Megan, Cassie, the twins Kendra and Ryan as well as two great granddaughters Grace and Ella and a new great grandson born in July.

Robert R. (Bob) Rhodes



Robert R. "Bob" Rhodes of Lakewood, CO died on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 from a fall. Bob was born on January 7, 1934 in Council Grove, KS, Bob attended school there and married his high school sweetheart, Diane in 1953. He graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Business Administration in 1957. Bob began his Forest Service career on the Medicine Bow in Laramie, WY. Over the next thirty years, his work moved him and his family to forests throughout the Region: the Medicine Bow, the Bighorn, the Rio Grande, the Gunnison, the Pike/San Isabel, and finally Regional Office. Bob dearly loved the mountains, fishing, hunting, and camping with the family. After moving to Denver in 1973, Bob was a founding member and very engaged with the Green Mountain Kiwanis Club. Bob was an active member of Lakewood United Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Rhodes; four daughters- Karen, Janice; Cheri, and Mary; eight grandchildren-Robin, Keith, Jeremy, Christopher, Micah, Tim, Nick; and Robert; and great grandchildren Elliot, Evan, Eli, Henry, Asa, Emma and Ben. He is also survived by his sister Judy. All these boys were "payback" to Bob for having survived the chaos of raising four daughters.

Walt (Walter) Wright Rule, Jr.



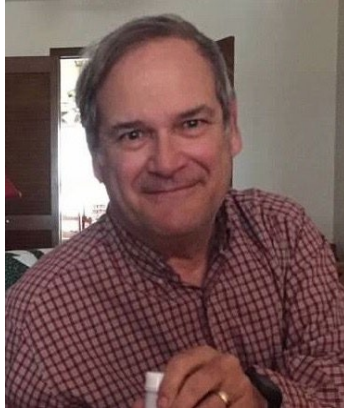
Walt (Walter) Wright Rule, Jr. passed away on April 18 in Montrose. Walt was born May 30, 1931 in Plainfield, NJ to Walter W. Rule and Maud Renshaw and grew up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. He graduated from the University of Maine in June of 1954 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry and married Nancy in April 1955. He served in the Army in South Korea and became a company commander at Inchon Harbor.

His career with the Forest Service began on the Black Hills, then the Roosevelt, and then became the District Ranger of the Ouray District on the GMUG in June 1968 and served there until they moved to Asheville, NC in January 1977. He and Nancy returned to Colorado to retire in Ouray in 1986 and then moved permanently to Montrose in 2015.

Walt was very much involved in the Ouray County and western Colorado communities and had many interests especially those relating to the environment and all things historical, but also collecting stamps, coins, antiques, an extensive book collection and especially classic cars.

Walt is survived by his wife Nancy of 65 years, his brother, Bruce , his son Walter III, four daughters, Linda, Karen, Melanie, Julia, and their families, including grandchildren Sarah, Andrea, Erika, Christina, and Breana, and great grandchildren Payton, Jeffrey and Kristin.

Michael Mark Sanders



Michael Mark Sanders of Laramie died Tuesday, October 20 following a brief battle with lymphoma. Michael was born September 14, 1952 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Carrol and Joan Sanders. He grew up with a love for God, the great outdoors, animals and family traditions. He was an Eagle Scout and graduated from Stephen F. Austin University in 1974. During the mid to late 1970s, Michael taught math in Tulsa schools and worked as a park ranger in Rocky Mountain N. P. when he met Gloria and they were married in 1979.

Michael was hired by the Forest Service in 1978, working on forests in Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee, Wyoming, Missouri and Arkansas once more. He retired in 2007 as the Supervisor of the Ozark in Russellville, AR.

After retirement he worked for Wyoming Tourism, the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado, and did some substitute teaching. Michael loved planting crops on his farm in Missouri, tending his orchards and cooking new recipes. He also enjoyed hiking, watching sports and being an active member in several churches around the country.

Michael is survived by his wife, Gloria, of Laramie; daughters Molly Sanders Howe and Ashley Sanders; and sisters Kathryn Rusk and Jennifer Sanders.

R.G. “Bob” Severson



R.G. “Bob” Severson passed away on June 6, 2020 at the age of 68. Bob was born on May 16, 1952, to Robert and Norma Severson in Minneapolis, MN. He met his wife, Quincey as a senior in high school and they married in 1973. They had four sons: Colby Jac, Kassidy Andrew, Quirt O’Brien and Jace Delaney.

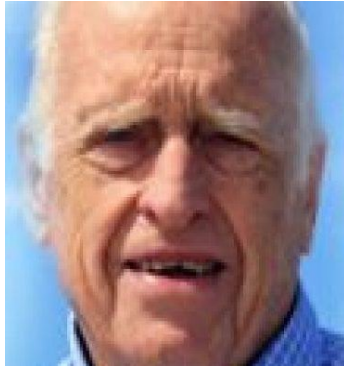
R.G. spent 47 winters as a ski instructor, sliding down a mountain on two planks, carving GS turns, and teaching others how to do the same. He spent 32 summers riding range for the Forest Service in the beautiful Gunnison backcountry. Whether it was riding range or roping steers he was never sad while he was in the saddle.

Graduating from Western State College in 1987, he spent eight seasons as a defensive coach for the Mountaineers. The players and coaches that were his family meant the world to him, and there was nothing that he would not do for them. He lived a full and happy life, doing what he

loved — skiing, coaching and being a cowboy. As much as he loved his chosen professions, his true love was spending time with his children and grandchildren ... and college football.

He is survived by his wife Quincey, two sons Colby and Kassidy and their families including four grandchildren Kailey, Brenna, Cash and Saylor.

Charles Lee “Chuck” Simon



Charles Lee “Chuck” Simon, 88, passed away on April 21, 2020. Chuck was born in Colorado Springs on August 9, 1931 to Margaret and Judge Charles Simon. He graduated in 1954 from Colorado A&M with a degree in forest management. It was there that he met and married his wife June. He served three years with the Air Force and then in 1959 completed his Master’s degree at CSU.

Chuck began a 25 year career with the Forest Service with ranger and staff positions in Gunnison, Encampment, Denver, and Sheridan. He fought wildland fires for 30 years in 15 states. Chuck was extraordinarily active in the community as a leader in Kiwanis, YMCA, Water Improvement District, Reserve Officers Association, Fire District, Elks, and American Legion. He was a high school referee and attended the Methodist Church where Reverend Adams would pay him a quarter for each sermon in which he stayed awake; Chuck made 75¢. Chuck treasured the outdoors and sporting events of all kinds. Though it embarrassed his 3 kids who graduated from UW, he was proud to be a CSU Ram. He was a member of the Rocky Mountaineers since 2014.

Chuck was proud of his family. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, June; children Gerry, Sandy, Debbie and their families including grandchildren Amanda, Phil, Niko, Calli, Allison.

William Carroll (Bill) Starr, Jr.



William Carroll (Bill) Starr, Jr. passed away on February 28, 2020. Bill was born in Pueblo on March 25, 1934 to William and Susan Starr. He met his wife when they were teenagers in Pueblo, and both attended the University of Colorado Boulder. Bill’s college career was put on hold for a few years while he served in the Army during the Korean War. Bill and Esther married in 1958 and moved to Honolulu, Hawaii for Esther’s job at Queen’s Hospital, and soon started their large family. Bill completed his college education in 1960 at the University of Hawaii.

Several years later, the Starrs returned to Colorado, and Bill began his long and fulfilling career with the U.S. Forest Service. The family relocated several times to Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska with Bill’s job and made lifelong friends in each location. Bill, Esther and their five girls settled back in Colorado

(Denver) in 1976. The Starrs have been members of Phillips United Methodist Church in Lakewood for many years and Bill was an extremely loving, loyal and respected family man.

Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years Esther; his four daughters Carol (Roger) Hutchison, Nancy (Todd) Starr, Lisa (Ludwig) Lettau and Julie (Mark) Beeler; his 12 grandchildren; and his 13 great-grandchildren.

Kathleen (Kay) Faye Stoner



Kathleen (Kay) Faye Stoner passed away on September 5, 2020. Kathleen was born and raised in Crawford, CO to Clarence and Charlotte Collins on Aug. 23, 1937. She lived and loved the ranching lifestyle and enjoyed spending all her free time riding her horse, hiking in the mountains or moving sheep with her dad. Kathleen married Charles Ralph Stoner in 1969. The love of nature and the great outdoors was something that Kathleen felt very strongly about passing on to her two daughters.

Kathleen worked and retired from the Forest Service as a Civil Engineer Technician. She also enjoyed her work in San Juan and West Elk mountain ranges and especially loved the fall in the Kebler Pass area. She work on fires and including the fires in Yellowstone in 1988 and

was on a survey crew in Alaska in 1990. She loved quilting, sewing, hiking, cross country skiing, cake decorating and traveling the Western United States.

Her love for her family and the prominent Castle Rock Mountain that overlooked her home for 83 years, kept her firmly tied in the community that she loved. . Kathleen leaves behind her husband, Charles R. Stoner, daughters, Heather and Holly Knowles and their families including six grandchildren and one great-grandchild who affectionately referred to her as Grandma KC.

Helen E. (Austin) Williams



Helen E. (Austin) Williams passed away on October 1, 2020 after falling and breaking her hip. She was born in Denver to Natte and Mary Austin on November 22, 1933 but Fort Collins was her home since age 10 as it has been for seven generations of her family. Helen was involved with every part of her three children's lives in school, scouts, church and sports. She rarely missed Helen missed a program, concert or sporting event that involved her children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren.

After time with the school district she worked for the Forest Service and thoroughly enjoyed the people she worked with, the mountains, and working with partners writing on contracts and permits. In 1978, she married Don Williams and during their almost 40 year marriage

they enjoyed sports, trips, exercise, and family. After retiring, Helen was busy with her young great-grandchildren, assuring they knew the Pledge of Allegiance, and numbers and letters before starting preschool. A cancer survivor, Helen was a strong woman, a believer in equal rights, never complained, always had a kind word to offer a friend, a memory to share with a stranger, and believed one should be responsible, do your best, and have fun.

She is survived by children, Steven, LeAnn, and Greg; grandchildren Ryann, Jenny and Derek and great-grandchildren Danae and Kace Hodge; a special sister-in-law Carole Austin.

Charles L. Wright



Charles L. (Charlie) Wright was born on Nov. 8, 1936, in North Bend, Ohio, to Harry and Lilly (Nugent) Wright. Charlie graduated from Bright High School in 1954 without missing a single day during those twelve years.

He enlisted in the Air Force and after served until 1957. He married Joan Beck, on June 9, 1956. He received his degree in Forestry from Purdue in 1960. His 26 year career with the Forest Service started in New Mexico and Arizona as a range tech and finished on the Shoshone as district ranger and Supervisor Office staff officer where he retired in 1986. Although he enjoyed several careers, Charlie was passionate about baseball and played, coached, officiated, worked, and cheered on baseball fields his whole life. He was an avid outdoorsman, a woodworker, and liked black coffee, coconut cookies, blackberry pie, and Krispy Kreme donuts. He loved his wife and children but adored his grandchildren and great-grands. His blue eyes twinkled when he heard stories of all their various exploits.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan, their children Pam, Sherry, and Eric; grandchildren Russell, Abby, Brian, Danny, Mallory, Cameron; great-grandchildren: Kya, Keira, Mersades, Orrin, Randall, Cole, Kasi, Chase., Emma, Will, Charlie, and Tuck; and brother Bill.

Dean Donald Young



Dean Donald Young, 62, of Custer, SD passed away on November 30, 2020, at his residence in Custer. Dean and Paula were married March 5, 1983, in Wisconsin and moved to South Dakota in 1992. Dean had a wonderful career with the US Forest Service as a land surveyor that brought his family to the Black Hills and made them all proud. He loved the outdoors and passed the passion on to his sons. Hunting and fishing trips were never really about the harvest, only the experience. A great sense of humor afforded everyone he saw a big smile and laugh.

As a retired man he enjoyed spending time with the neighbors

and helping whoever he could. He was an honorable man, and to honor his wishes, there will be no services. As his granddaughter Everly says, "We will just have to keep him in our heart now." He will be greatly missed by many.

He is survived by his wife, Paula; sons, Cody and Tyler and their families; brother, David; two granddaughters, Hazel and Everly.