



Memorial Grove Ceremony
Honoring former Forest Service Employees
2023



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the 2023 Memorial Grove honoree ceremony. This is the hundred and second year that planting has been done here at this site to honor Rocky Mountain Region employees who have served the Region in many different roles and have given so much of their passion, expertise, and commitment to “Caring for the Land and Serving the People”. This sustained tradition of recognizing those who have given so much over the last hundred years would not be possible without the support of the people in the Rocky Mountain Region over the years, especially the folks on the Pikes Peak District, and those who have continued to care greatly for the Forest Service and its legacy even after retirement. We dedicate this special ceremony to all the families of each and every one of the special people we recognize today. They symbolize the dedication, the professionalism, and outstanding public service that have made the Forest Service one of the best organizations in the country. This is who we are. Today we honor not only those who have left us in the last year and those we have “not forgotten,” but in a sense we also recognize all those who have given so much over the last hundred years.



America the Beautiful

O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

by Katharine Lee Bates

What is Memorial Grove?

The Memorial Grove was established in 1920 to honor Rocky Mountain Region soldiers killed in WW1. The next year a memorial ceremony was held on May 29, 1921, at the Grove and 30 trees were planted to recognize not only the five soldiers who died during World War I but also for other Forest Service employees who had died while officially with the Service. The original Grove had a memorial tree named, mapped and planted for each of the employees who had lost their lives.

The Grove is located on the grounds of the old Monument Tree Nursery, now the Monument Fire Center on the Pikes Peak District of the Pike and San Isabel National Forest. The Memorial Grove was established by using transplanted Englemann spruce, blue spruce and Douglas-fir trees from the Fremont Experimental Forest on nearby Pikes Peak.

Today's Memorial Grove continues to recognize and celebrate the careers, dedication and contributions of all those Rocky Mountain Region employees who have died and left their legacies for future generations to help manage the National Forests and Grasslands of the Rocky Mountain Region. The Memorial Grove ceremony also offers a special time and place to honor family members and friends of Forest Service employees for their critical support and personal sacrifices that contributed to the success of their loved and honored ones and the mission of the USDA-Forest Service.

After the Berry Fire in 1989, which partially burned a part of the Grove, it was decided a fitting monument with individual name plaques, attached annually, would be an appropriate replacement to honor past employees. One young tree continues to be added each year to the Grove to commemorate all honorees of the year, and to maintain a living memorial to those who personally served the Rocky Mountain Region and their country.

Since 1995, a memorial ceremony has been conducted on the first Saturday in May to highlight and reflect on those special employees who helped make the Rocky Mountain Region a special place to live, work and raise families. Substantial work has been done on the Memorial Grove site to make it unique setting for solitude and reflection.

The awareness of the Grove and its role in maintaining the special character and history of the Rocky Mountain Region continues to grow. Current and retired employees of the Region, the Pikes Peak Ranger District, and the Rocky Mountaineers sponsor the dedication ceremony, and deeply appreciate the support and financial contributions of employees, family and friends to maintain this very special setting and the memories it provides.

Arrival and Informal Visiting

8:30-9:45

Time to walk through the Grove and informal greetings

Ceremony Program

102nd Annual Memorial Grove Ceremony

May 6, 2023 from 10:00 am-12 noon

Master of Ceremony

Gregg Goodland, Public Affairs Officer, Rio Grande National Forest

Opening Song — “America The Beautiful”	Kathy and Daniel Davidson (Bates/Guthrie)
Forest Welcome	Diana Trujillo, Forest Supervisor, PSICC
Flag Ceremony	Forest Service Honor Guard with Ken Giese, Bagpipes
Pledge of Allegiance	Gregg Goodland et al
Invocation	Chaplain Kris Michalski
Rocky Mountain Region Welcome	Regional Forester Frank Beum
Honor Speaker:	Tom Thompson, retired Deputy Chief National Forest System
Brass Plate Presentation	Tom Thompson to Danielle Carmon, Deputy Ranger Pikes Peak RD
Riderless Horse	Steve Deitemeyer retiree/Deputy Ranger Carmon will lead horse around Grove
Bag Pipes	Amazing Grace and Comin’ Home, Ken Giese, Pipe Major
Song – “Wayfaring Stranger”	Kathy and Daniel Davidson (Traditional)
Mounting of Engraved Brass Plates	Bill Nelson, retired Pikes Peak District Ranger
Reading of Names	Tom Thompson (A family Member is invited to share a few brief comments on behalf of the entire family after each honoree is recognized.) Bell – Early Huie, PPRD Support
Moment of Silence	
Taps	Barry Hitt
Closing Instructions	Deputy Ranger Carmon, PPRD
Closing song, “Will the Circle Be Unbroken”	Kathy and Daniel Davidson (Carter)
Tree Planting	Josh VonLoh, PPRD and Rick Ellsworth, PPRD retiree, with family members

**Light lunch of sandwiches with chips, cookies, and drinks will be provided by Rocky Mountaineers.

– Tri-Lakes Monument EMS available if help is needed –

2022

John Douglas Beckley

Gaines Wright Bearden

Richard P. (Dick) Cook

Adrian Dargan

Robert William (Bob) Deitrick

Susan Flitcraft Dillie

Ferry Freeouf

Phyllis Gene Guenin

Angie Hinker

Dan Kaufenberg

Rodney Darrell Lewis

Claude Kendall (Ken) Lister

Frederic Blair (Ted) Mullin

John Walter Mumma

John William Oien

Paul F. Senteney

Tracy Lynn Serres

James Lynn (Jim) Simonson

Roger Dale Tarum

Donald Elijio (Don) Velasquez

Jack A. Weissling

*A society grows great when old men
plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.*

Memorial Grove 2022 Honorees



John Douglas Beckley

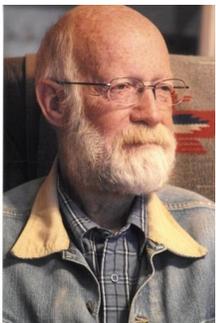


John Douglas Beckley passed away September 22, 2022, at his home in Cedaredge Colorado. He was born in Pocatello, ID on March 22, 1944, to James Beckley and Gertrude (Bowness) Beckley. John was raised in Cedaredge where the family home was at the State fish hatchery where his father worked. He graduated from Cedaredge High School in 1962, he worked on a trail crew on the Grand Mesa NF then received a degree from Mesa College before four years in the Army.

After his military service, he received a his Forestry degree from Utah State and began work as a fire fighter on the Gila and Kaibab NF in Region 3 and then moved on the Pine District of the San Juan NF. In 1974 he was on the Brush Creek and then the Laramie District of the Medicine Bow NF. In 1987 he transferred to the Sulphur District of the Arapaho NF primarily working in recreation management. In the late '80 and early '90s he took an assignment on the Juneau District of the Tongass NF in Alaska working in recreation and trail management. He then returned to Region 2 as a Recreation Project Manager on the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF. He then had assignments in both R-3 and R-4 in wilderness management and special uses and retired in 2010.

He was an outstanding wildlife and outdoors photographer and established a business of framing and selling his large collection of images. He was a hunter and an avid fly fisherman, he also collected and built split bamboo fly rods. He collected Native American southwest art, pottery, arrowheads, jewelry and kachinas.

He is survived by his wife Mary Marquardt Beckley and sister Janet E. Beckley.



Gaines Wright Bearden



Gaines Wright Bearden died on January 14, 2022. He was born in Standing Pine, MS on December 5, 1941, to Virginia Wright Bearden Trigleth and Matthew Gaines Bearden. He grew up in Rolling Fork, MS, and joined the Army National Guard right after graduating high school in 1959, from which he was honorably discharged in 1968. During his service he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. After earning his degree in 1964, he continued with graduate courses and taught school before starting a long career with the U.S. Forest Service in 1966, which took him west. He retired in 1995 as the Personnel Director of the Rocky Mountain Region. After retirement, he enjoyed traveling with his wife both domestically and internationally.

Throughout his life he held a great love of the outdoors, spending as much of his free time as possible hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking. He was also an accomplished musician who played trumpet and guitar, finding friends to play music with wherever he lived. He met his wife Joanna while playing in a folk band together in college, and they were married in 1964. In his later years, he created folk art crosses which were displayed in galleries in Denver and New Mexico.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Joanna Harvey Bearden, his son Brian Gaines Bearden, and daughter Kelly Margaret Bearden. He is also survived by his siblings Jeff Bearden, Willy Bearden, and Debby Walker.



Richard P. (Dick) Cook

Richard P. (Dick) Cook of Norwood, CO, passed away Sept. 9, 2022, in Spring, Texas. Dick was born in Bartlesville, OK, on December 21, 1939, to Kraft and Dorothy Cook.

Dick graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in forestry and then joined the Forest Service in Dubois, Wyoming, as assistant ranger. He was later transferred to Pagosa Springs, Colorado, and spent six years there.

He married Carol Cook in 1968 and moved to Black Hills as a forester and lived in Lead, Deadwood, Belle Fourche, and Spearfish. In Spearfish, he was promoted to district ranger. In 1976 he transferred to Norwood, CO and for the next 23 years he was district ranger for the Grand Mesa, Gunnison, and Uncompahgre National Forests. He retired in 1999.

While in Norwood, he was instrumental in major expansions of the Telluride Ski Area. His duties also included forest management and working with local ranchers and timber companies to obtain various Forest Service permits. During his years with the Forest Service, he spent many fire seasons across the western U.S., most notably being the 1988 Yellowstone fire in which he served as one of the five fire bosses for that fire. He retired from the Forest Service after 35 years.

He was a longtime member of the Elks Club and a lifetime member of The Rocky Mountaineers. He loved construction work and built four homes over the years. He enjoyed farming, camping, fishing, hunting with pack mules, and generally just being outdoors. Dick enjoyed traveling and exploring much of the U.S. and Canada.

He is survived by his wife Carol of 53 years; daughter Debbie Cook Harbin of Spring, TX; son Mike Cook of Lake Jackson, TX; three granddaughters; two great-grandchildren, and a brother, Don Cook of KS.



Adrian Dargan



Adrian Dargan, passed away on November 4, 2022. He was born November 27, 1938, to Theodore and Opal Dargan. He was an adventurous youngster who loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing with his father.

Even though some questioned his choice, he chose to pursue a career that would feed his passion for the outdoors. He was not deterred from fulfilling his dream and breaking barriers by earning a degree from the School of Forestry at Oklahoma State. While in college, he met his one and only, Brunell Manning, a student at a nearby college and they were married on December 30, 1961.

Adrian served in the Army and after his discharge began his Forest Service career on the Coeur d'Alene NF in Idaho...making him the first African American professionally educated forester to be hired by the Forest Service. Adrian worked on three national forests in Idaho and Montana before transferring to the Pike and San Isabel NF. In his career he planted many a tree, worked in timber, wildlife, recreation, and fire management.

He retired in 1993 and was always active in the community, his church, and loved his time with family. He loved old westerns and often listened to jazz while watching westerns. He had a keen interest in the history of Black people and American Indians and their intersection in the western United States, especially the Buffalo Soldiers and the settling of the West. He personified integrity and dependability and was a wonderful provider for his family. Adrian was an inspiration to all who knew him and left behind a proud legacy of a life well lived.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years Brunell, his sister Dr. Olita Dargan Harris, his daughter Monique, and sons Adrian and Theodore, and five grandsons: Aram, Jordan, Matthew, Jade, Isaiah, and great-granddaughter Ellyia.



Robert William (Bob) Deitrick

Robert William (Bob) Deitrick died on January 16, 2022, in Fort Collins, CO. He was born in Caldwell, Idaho on November 8, 1941. He went to Pepperdine University and graduated with a degree in biology and did post-grad work in education and became a teacher. In the summers he worked as a seasonal firefighter on the Shasta-Trinity NF. He enjoyed hiking and the outdoors and became tired of grading papers and took a job as an engineering technician on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NFs at Sedro-Woolley, Washington in 1983. He moved to the Arapaho-Roosevelt NF in the 1985 and worked as a project manager in engineering and surveying.

He married Lucy Ellen Hollins in California, and they had three children: Zachary, Russell, and Dawn. Lucy passed away in 2000 in Fort Collins. Robert is survived by his three children and their families, including eight grandchildren.



Susan Flitcraft Dillie

Susan Flitcraft Dillie passed away Wednesday April 27th, 2022. Susan was born September 23, 1958, to Rosalie and Melvin Flitcraft in Bakersfield, CA. Susan spent her early years in California, but in 1965 the family packed up and moved to Powell, WY where Susan obtained her education and graduated from high school. She went on to college and in 1979 she welcomed her first son, Andy, and in 1985 her second son, Daniel, the two brought so much love into her life. The trio lived in Cody, Wyoming where Susan began her career with the Forest Service. Susan loved the outdoors, so working for the Forest Service was a perfect fit. Susan served 28 years in Engineering, Law Enforcement, and Human Resources. She worked as a Lead Human Resources Specialist for many years and had a huge impact to the Region. Her love for the Forest Service was amazing and she enjoyed every minute of it. She retired in 2018.

In her last move to Delta, CO she fell in love with Dave Dillie. They were the perfect pair, and 2001 the two took a journey that stopped at a little chapel in Las Vegas. She gained two wonderful daughters, Heather and Kimberly, with this union. Susan loved camping, jeeping, a good campfire, hikes, a gin and tonic, and being around friends and family; however, her greatest joy was her grandkids. Susan loved with every ounce of her soul, and had a wonderful way of making everyone feel special and important in their own unique way. Her bond was her word, and her word was her bond.

She is survived by her loving husband Dave Dillie, sons Andy (Megan) Miller, Daniel Orr, bonus daughters Heather and Kimberly Dillie, 11 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, brothers Jerry, Jeffery, and sister Cindy Norris, along with many nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends.



Jerry Freeouf

Jerry Freeouf died April 23, 2022. He was born on November 15, 1942, in Nebraska. Attended schools in several states and graduated from Texas A&M and first worked for the Forest Service in east Texas. He was a Forest Soils Scientist on the Shawnee NF in southern Illinois and married Joanne Grace Dahm. He then worked on the Superior NF in Minnesota before moving to the Rocky Mountain Region in 1989. He worked closely with Hydrologist Jim Maxwell and Fish Biologist Gordon Sloane and often said “what happens to my soil gets in Jim’s water and kills Gordon’s fish”. The threesome gained quite a reputation as a team, so much so that the great range conservationist, Floyd Reed called them Huey, Dewey, and Louie.

Jerry played a big role on the R2 RipCord (riparian coordination) team and in developing the Watershed Conservation Practices handbook for the region. He was also a national leader in the terrestrial ecomap project and led the region's BAER (burned-area emergency rehabilitation) program. He enriched the quality of natural resource management and made all that he worked with better professionals in their work and positions. He had a wonderful sense of humor and was always part of the solution. He is keenly missed by a bunch of us.

Jerry's wife Joanne passed away in 2016. He is survived by a sister, Karen.



Phyllis Gene Guenin

Phyllis Gene Guenin passed away January 15, 2022, in New Underwood, South Dakota. Phyllis was born May 21, 1925. The family then made their home at Lewellen Nebraska. In 1947 she married Gerald Guenin. The couple welcomed two children, Kendall in 1949 and Warren in 1951. The family later moved to Union Center South Dakota where they raised cattle. Phyllis taught in an area country school there for several years until her own children were high school age. Phyllis and her sons then resided in Sturgis South Dakota during the week and returned to the ranch at Union Center for weekends. Phyllis worked for a time at Fort Meade VA hospital, a law office, the Meade County Court House, and the Forest Service from which she retired. Upon her retirement, Phyllis researched and wrote articles about South Dakota historical sites which were published in state and local area publications.

She is survived by Grandsons Scott (Trish) Guenin, and Dayne Guenin, of North Platte, Nebraska, 3 Great Grandson, three great-great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Angie Gering Hinker

Angie Hinker passed away May 7, 2022. She was born on August 30, 1974, in Casper, WY. Angie spent many years at the Great Plains Dispatch as the Assistant Center Manager and most recently as a Project Manager with the US Forest Service S&PF WO Fire and Aviation Management. Her specialty was enhancing wildfire dispatch programs nationwide. She is survived by her parents Denny and Patricia Gering and her husband Brandon Hinker, brothers Steve and Jordan, Jordan Blanchard, Maddison, Mike Cushway, and Courtney Gering.



Dan Kaufenberg

Dan Kaufenberg, District Fuels AFMO on the Dolores Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest died March 31, 2022.

Dan's fire career started in 2007 as an engine crewmember with the Forest Service in Region 1 on the Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest. He worked 6 seasons for the B-D, working his way to a seasonal Senior Firefighter and then for the Lolo NF as a permanent Senior Firefighter. In 2014 he accepted a position with the Forest Service in Region 2 as an Assistant Engine Captain on the San Juan National Forest. He remained with the San Juan until the spring of 2018 when he accepted an Engine Captain position with the Bureau of Land Management Southwest Colorado District. Early in the summer of 2019, he accepted an Engine Captain position and returned to the San Juan NF in Dolores, CO. His last assignment was as District Fuels Assistant Fire Management Officer on the San Juan on the Dolores Ranger District.

He worked to ensure a safer, more efficient, accepting, and diverse workplace that provided superior service to the federal agencies, employees, coworkers, and public that he served throughout his career. He continually worked to achieve an environment that focuses on using every individual's strength and coaching them on any possible deficiencies to turn them into strengths. Working within this environment helped him to promote stronger partnerships, individual talents, teamwork, and build successful future leaders.

He leaves behind his wife, Emily, and two children, a son, and a daughter.



Rodney Darrell Lewis



Rodney Darrell Lewis, 89 of Pueblo, CO passed away Oct. 2, 2022. Rodney was born in The Dalles, Oregon on April 9, 1933, to Robert O. Lewis and Esther Lewis (nee' Leder). He graduated from Glenwood Springs High School in 1951 and Colorado A&M in 1955 with a degree in forestry. Rodney spent two years in the Army at Aberdeen, MD and Burlington, IA before starting a thirty-year career with Forest Service where he served on the Bighorn, Pike, and San Isabel NFs.

Rodney was the Ranger on the Lake George District from 1964-1972, then moved with his family to Pueblo where he worked at the Pike San Isabel Supervisor's Office. In 1981 he moved to the Salida District Office where among other duties, he helped with the planning and construction of the Colorado Trail. Rodney later retired in 1988. Rodney was an avid Broncos and Rockies fan, a self-taught artist, enjoyed fishing on his boat, Sunday drives, and loved spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Rodney is survived by his loving wife Neola whom he was married to for

sixty-seven years, and children Cathy (John) Witt, Ellen (Mike) Cornett, Ralph (Elizabeth) Lewis, David (Julie) Lewis, Eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Claude Kendall (Ken) Lister



Claude Kendall (Ken) Lister, 87, passed away on January 15, 2022, in Bozeman, MT. Ken was born and raised the oldest of four brothers in rural Iron County, Utah, near Parowan, where he learned to love nature. He graduated from high school before serving in the Army for two years in the 1950s.

After returning stateside, Ken earned a degree in entomology at Utah State University. His education prepared him for a long career as an entomologist with the Forest Service, mostly in Colorado. As part of his work, he co-authored numerous scientific articles about pine beetles in our national forests.

Just after his 30th birthday, Ken married Barbara, and the couple raised two daughters, Coreene and Janice, who both live in Bozeman now, and a son, Greg, who resides in Cheyenne, Wyoming. After divorcing in the early 1980s, Ken met and spent his life adventures with Anne Wheeler until she passed in 2020.

Recreational activities that have brought him the most joy include birdwatching, skiing, windsurfing, biking, and traveling (to Mexico, Europe, and Bird Island). He enjoyed listening to old-time western tunes and was also a talented wood-worker and gardener in his day!

Ken is survived by his daughters, Coreene Masse and Janice (Albert) Garcia; son, Gregory (Hawley) Lister, and 16 grandchildren.



Frederic Blair (Ted) Mullin



Ted Mullin died on August 18, 2022. He was born on January 24, 1935, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, to Frances L. (nee Bartley) and George B.P. Mullin. He thrived on challenges and variety. He filled his life with adventures in multiple places and with a wide range of activities, always living it to the fullest.

Ted's education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute was interrupted by four years of service in the Army Corps of Engineers, where he supervised the reconstruction of military runways in South Korea. He completed his education in 1957 and graduated with a degree in Geological Engineering.

For thirty-seven years Ted worked as a geologist, primarily with the Forest Service although he also spent some time with the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, he also spent time in Washington D.C. where he assisted in the

development of the regulations to implement the 1970 Minerals and Mining Law. He retired from the Forest Service as a Regional Geologist in January of 1997.

Ted was active in several professional organizations including the Geological Society of America (GSA); The Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME); and the American Institute of Professional Geologists, which recognized him as Certified Professional Geologist in 1968. Ted spent many of his retirement days in the Colorado mountains indulging both his passion of fly fishing and his winter passion of snow skiing.

Ted is survived by Carol, his wife of 29 years; his son Arthur; his step-daughter Abigail Dawson and step-son William Jackson (Andrea) and their respective children; his brother Sandy; his brother Bruce; and numerous nieces and nephews.



John Walter Mumma

John Walter Mumma died Sept. 1, 2022. John was born in Farmington, NM, on Sept. 30, 1939, to Richard Marion Mumma and Luita Lavina Dufur Mumma. He graduated from Farmington High School in 1957 and graduated from the University of New Mexico. After summer work on the San Juan, he was hired at the Pagosa Springs Job Corps Center which started a 40-year career with the Forest Service. John served on the San Juan, the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison NFs; Apache NF, R-3 Regional Office; District Ranger on the Lincoln NF; staff on the Shoshone NF; Director of Wildlife and Fisheries in R-4, and Director Range, Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecology in Denver. After time in the National Office in 1987, he was promoted to Regional Forester of the Northern Region. After leaving the agency, he did some consulting and in 1995 was named Director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. John was proud of his accomplishments and awards, including the Aldo Leopold Medal from the Wildlife Society and many other very special awards.

After retiring from the CDOW the Governor of Colorado named a native fish hatchery and recovery facility after him. While he was proud of acknowledgments and awards, he and his best friend and wife of 46 years took even greater pleasure in spending time outdoors with their children and grandchildren, passing on his knowledge of plants and wildlife.

He is survived by his wife Myra, two children--Rainee Loeb and Johnny Lance Mumma, as well as two stepchildren, Marette Riley and Chris Nielsen and eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



John William Oien



John William Oien died on March 7, 2022. John was born on May 27, 1943, in Long Beach, CA to Paul and Kathryn “Hoffman” Oien. He spent his youth in California, graduating from Paramount High School in 1961. He studied Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Arizona State University and California Polytechnic University graduating in 1968 with a degree in Environmental Design.

During his 37-year career with the Forest Service, John worked on 9 forests in California, Nevada, Idaho, and Colorado, spending his last 24 years on the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. He provided support in landscape and recreation planning. John was dedicated to preserving the National Forests while helping the public enjoy outdoor recreation.

At his brother’s wedding he met his love, Jenifer Bjelke and they married on June 5, 1976, in Arleta, California. They made their home in Salmon, ID where they finished building the house John designed and welcomed their first daughter, Julie. In 1979 they moved to Delta, CO where the family continued to grow with daughter Janet and son Jens.

John was an active Lutheran church member, sang in choirs, loved to travel, and co-authored a book, “They Came from Hadeland” Norway. John had many hobbies working with wood, crafts, and gardening. In recent years he shared his love for landscaping with his children as he designed detailed plans for their home’s outdoor spaces.

He is survived by wife Jenifer, daughters Julie and Janet, and son Jens and their families including 6 grandchildren Elsa, Katherine, Jakob, Kari, Nicholas, and Soren; and brothers Wendell and Keith; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Paul F. Senteney



Paul F. Senteney passed away in his home in Delta on Tuesday Jan. 18, 2022. He was born in Mattoon, Illinois, on Feb. 4, 1930, to Kenneth and Ruth Ann Senteney. After high school he moved to New Mexico to attend college where he met Helen Wiley, the love of his life and best friend. Married in 1951, they enjoyed life together for 67 more years.

He enlisted in the Air Force and served in the Korean War. Together they raised two sons, Rick of Hesperus and Doug of Parachute. After the military Paul earned his master’s degree in range and wildlife biology from the University of Arizona. He was hired by the Forest Service in Arizona and worked his way up from assistant ranger to range and wildlife staff officer on the Kaibab, San Juan, and Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NFs.

He was “The” horseman/wrangler of the Forest Service throughout his career. His greatest joy was riding in the mountains of Colorado. He was a past president of the Colorado Society of Range Management. He was in the Missouri Fox Trotter Association and inducted into the Missouri Fox Trotter Hall of Fame. He was respected by his peers and those he worked with. After retirement he was active in his church and community. He continued to work with horses and horsemen all over the West, as well as keeping up the farm.

He is preceded in death by his wife Helen. Survived by sons Rick and Doug, two grandchildren Seth and Kate, as well as two great-grandchildren.



Tracy Lynn Serres

Tracy Lynn Serres of Big Horn, WY passed away on April 3, 2022. Tracy was born and raised in Worland, Wyoming on May 17, 1966, to Dennis Dunbar Yule and Irene Babette Yule. Tracy grew up with two brothers, Jim and Jeff Yule and a lot of friends that loved her.

Tracy joined the Forest Service in 1985 and had a long and distinguished career. Most recently, she was a senior project manager and investment manager in the Project Management Office of the Chief Information Office. Tracy was a mentor, friend, and coach to many on her team.

Tracy had two children whom she adored, Alyssa and Christopher Davis. She was a dedicated mother first and foremost. She treasured her children and embraced every moment with them. She was truly the best mother her children could have ever asked for.

In 2012, Tracy met the love of her life Boyd Serres. They married on December 8, 2017, in Big Horn, Wyoming. As Tracy was nearing the end of her career, they enjoyed spending time with family, especially her grandchildren - Trevin, Adalynn, and Ella, golfing, various home improvement projects, and much more. Tracy was immensely proud of her family and leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories.

Tracy is survived by her husband, Boyd Serres of Big Horn; daughter Alyssa, son Christopher Davis, grandchildren Trevin Christopher, Adalynn Mae, and Ella Raelynn; mother Irene Yule, brothers Jim and Jeff Yule, nieces and nephews and many other family and friends.



James Lynn (Jim) Simonson

James Lynn (Jim) Simonson, age 80, passed away in his home on January 3, 2022. He was born in Sioux City, Iowa, November 26, 1941, to Carroll and Myrtle (Haeussler) Simonson. Jim was blessed with two great loves in his life. On September 17, 1961, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Karen (Moffitt) Simonson, and was blessed with three beautiful children. Following Karen's passing in 1987, Jim was fortunate to find love again, and on November 10, 1990, married his wife, Glenda (Strain Banks) Simonson.

While he was never a man of many words, Jim loved his family fiercely and took every chance he could to brag about his beautiful children and grandchildren.

Jim was happiest when he was outdoors. He worked for 34 years on the GMUG at Norwood and Paonia; the Medicine Bow; and Ranger at Rifle and as Forest Recreation Lands staff on White River. He spent his retirement sailing around different lakes in Colorado on his boat, Euphoria, traveling around the country in his fifth wheel with his wife, geocaching with his grandchildren, or walking his dog around the neighborhood and saying hello to all his friends along the way. He dedicated much of his time to the Orchard Mesa Lions Club, even serving as the Club's president from 2020-2021

If you're seeking a way to remember Jim's life, go outside, look up to the sky, take a deep breath, and appreciate the great outdoors.

He is survived by his wife Glenda, three children and three stepchildren, Judith (Rick), Jon, Jean (Wayne), Laree (Randy), Scott (Audrey), and Michael (Betsy); seven grandchildren, Cody (Kaitlin), Caryn (Josh), Alex, Ryan, Molly (Kaesey), Matt (Jennifer), and Isaac, and four great-grandchildren, Camden, Kendall, James, and Robert.



Roger Dale Tarum

Roger Dale Tarum died at the age of 73 at his home in Ft Collins from what is believed to be a cardiac issue. He was born in 1949 in Watertown, SD, the oldest son of Dale and Lillian Tarum. He moved to Colorado in 1959 with his family. Roger attended Bear Creek High School and received his bachelor's and master's degrees with emphasis in hydrology at Colorado State University. He worked for the Forest Service for 50 years starting with fighting fires during summer breaks in 1968 until his retirement in 2008. He worked on the White River and Arapahoe Roosevelt NFs as the Recreation-Planning Group Leader. He was a quiet, caring, and very thoughtful friend to so many in the Forest Service and admired by many. He enjoyed the outdoors and loved skiing in the powder of Colorado's mountains.

He is survived by three brothers and one sister.



Donald Eljio (Don) Velasquez

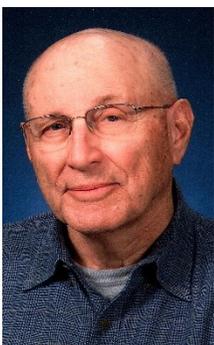


Donald Eljio (Don) Velasquez of Bailey, Colorado, passed away on September 20, 2022, in his home.

Donald was born in Burley, Idaho to Jose Eljio and Phyllis Pearl Velasquez on September 11, 1933. He went to high school at Gooding High School and left in 1950. He then volunteered for the Navy and served for 4 years during the Korean War. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree from The University of Idaho. He married Margaret Lipinsky in 1961 and after her passing, he married Grace Cisneros in 1997. He worked for the CIA (10 years), the US Forest Service (10 years), the Department of Energy (9 years), and then the Colorado School of Mines (10 years). After that he was a world traveler and he enjoyed driving to visit his children and grandchildren.

His hobbies were hiking, camping, fishing, and watching baseball. He has received so many awards and recognition it is hard to list them all. The one he was most proud of was his honorary doctorate as founder of the Minority Engineering Program at Colorado School of Mines. He was involved in Boy Scouts of America, soccer coach to his kids, and Knights of Columbus. He actively assisted his wife Grace in her ministry in Mexico. He was also very involved with St Mary's of the Rockies Catholic Church.

Donald is survived by his wife, Grace; Children: Donald Jr, Daniel, Pepe, Marina, Regina (Cisneros), John, Katrina (Olson), and Paul; Grandchildren: Shawn, Bryan, Gabriel, Zachary, Noah, Roka, Erika, Marlin, Lucetta, Serena, and Dionicio; Great-grandchildren: Mason; Siblings: Phyllis (Taylor), Geneva (Irwin), Theresa (Henscheid), Sister Mary Esther (Kathryn), and Deborah Anne Velasquez Mackley. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Margaret and his brother, Philemon (Joe).



Jack A. Weissling



Jack A. Weissling, 93, of Oshkosh, WI passed on December 24, 2022. He was born November 28, 1929, to the late John and Helen Baker Weissling. On July 2, 1954, he married Delores DeJarlais. She preceded him in death on September 21, 2006.

Jack was a veteran of the Air Force, proudly serving during the Korean War in Okinawa, Japan. Upon leaving the service, Jack attended the University of Minnesota, studying forestry. It is in Minnesota that he met his loving and devoted wife, Delores.

In 1957, Jack began his 37-year career in the Forest Service, moving multiple times throughout the years. He retired in Pueblo, Colorado, as Forest Supervisor of the Pike and San Isabel NFs, and Comanche and Cimarron NGs in 1995.

His name can be found on the America the Beautiful monument atop Pikes Peak. It's in the Forest Service that he formed many lifelong friendships, several of whom became like family. Many will fondly remember his beautiful penmanship and witty quips in cards and letters he sent throughout the years.

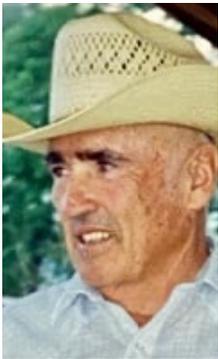
He was at home outdoors, in the woods and in his yard. He was a talented woodworker and an avid reader, continually learning up until his passing. His grandchildren loved hearing his stories, and the knowledge and wisdom he was always willing to share. He never met a stranger.

Though he tried to "avoid it," Jack adopted his friend Logan's cat in his later years. Diego became his best companion – always willing to curl up in his lap for a cuddle or for a tripod-assisted self-portrait. He also cared deeply for the birds and other critters he fed religiously in his back yard.

Jack is survived by his children; Patti, Gary, and Thomas and their families, including grandchildren; Hallie, Kelly, Jacob, Joshua, Justin, and Emily. And great-grandchildren; Mya, Zoey, Lucas, Joelle, and Amaya.



Not Forgotten



Donald Keith (Jack) Beavers



Donald Keith (Jack) Beavers of Laramie, WY died on November 14. He was born on August 1, 1932, in Midwest, WY to Buck and Edna Beavers.

Jack was a true cowboy. He was raised on the family property in Dayton, WY, choosing to stay behind when the rest of the family moved to Powell. He graduated top of his class from Dayton High School in 1950 and worked as a cow puncher until entering the Army and serving in the Korean War.

On May 28, 1958, he married Geraldine Suttle in Sheridan and had their first daughter, Jacquelin in 1959. Their second daughter, Becky came in 1964, and son, Clint in 1966. After graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming in 1962, Jack worked as an Engineer for the Forest Service for 25 years, enjoying a long retirement.

Jack enjoyed hunting, spending time outdoors and being out at the barn. However, his true love was everything Old Western. He collected western memorabilia, went to museums, auctions, rodeos and mastered the art of the yard sale. He was a proud supporter of Wyoming Athletics, Cowboy Joe Club, and the Steer a Year program. He served on the University Animal Care Committee and drove the Stagecoach at the Wyoming Territorial Prison for many years. He could often be found drinking coffee with his buddies on a Tuesday morning.

Jack is survived by his wife, Geraldine Beavers of Laramie; children, Becky and Clint; sister, Jeanette; grandchildren, Cody and Cammi; and his great grandchildren, Ayala and Anthony St. Clair and Colter Capps.



Waneta M. Kyte

Waneta M. Kyte of Spearfish passed away on December 4, 2021, in Spearfish. Waneta was born February 2, 1950, to James and Sylvia (Severin) Rahn at Winner, SD. She graduated from High School in 1970 from Elk Point, SD. She was united in marriage to Michael Kyte on May 19, 1973, in Elk Point. The couple moved to Spearfish in 1975, where Waneta worked at Ft. Meade for the State of South Dakota Archeology. She then went to work for the Forest Service, retiring in the mid 1990's. Waneta was active with the Spearfish Farmer's Market for many years, serving as a board member and also making various varieties of jam over the years. She also enjoyed traveling with Mike to the annual Seabees's reunions throughout the United States.

Waneta is survived by her husband of 48 years Mike Kyte of Spearfish; two sons, James (Robyn) Kyte of Lead, SD and Michael (Jessie) Kyte of Indiana; five grandchildren, McLayne (Tim) Hochstetler, McKinly Kyte, McGuyre Kyte, Nathan Kyte and Ester Kyte; one great-grandchild, William Hochstetler and sister Jane (Doug) Edwards of Gann Valley, SD.



Richard Carl (Rich) Miller



Richard Carl "Rich" Miller of Cody, WY died on Dec. 17, 2018. He was born on his grandfather's farm 7 miles north of Culbertson, Neb., on Feb. 15, 1933. He was the first of eight children born to Carl Frank and Augusta (Andrijeski) Miller. He grew up on the family farms in Hitchcock and Frontier counties, Nebraska.

He attended one-room country schools in Hitchcock, Red Willow and Frontier counties through the eighth grade. He graduated from McCook High School with the class of 1950.

Richard was proud of his service in the Air Force during the Korean conflict, serving three years in the European Theater stationed at Kirknewton, Scotland, Tripoli, Libya and Ankara, Turkey. He attended the University of Nebraska on the GI bill, graduating with a civil engineering degree in 1961. He was employed by the Forest Service in Colorado and Wyoming until his retirement in 1993.

On Nov. 4, 1961, he was united in marriage to Retha Marie Uerling at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Indianola, Neb. To this union were born four boys and one girl. Richard was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife Retha; sons Michael, Jeffrey, Paul, and Matthew, daughter Joan; brothers Laverne, Kenneth, and Melvin; sisters Charlene, Carla, and Carol, and 19 grandchildren.



Kat Oropeza



Kat Oropeza passed away January 22, 2018. She was born March 18, 1958, in Helena, Montana, Kat grew up in Sheridan, graduated from Sheridan High School and returned to her hometown following service in the Air Force. She worked for the United States Forest Service for nearly three decades, retiring in 2015. Her proudest professional accomplishment was her work with the fire program within the Forest Service.

Kat appreciated the beauty of the natural world, especially the Bighorn Mountains and the Medicine Wheel - which was a special place for her and her husband, Nick. She also loved music – both playing it and simply listening.

Kat cherished her six grandchildren, and loved spending time with them collectively, and one-on-one, with special “Nana Saturdays.” She also was a focused and engaged spectator when any of her grandkids were playing sports.

Beyond a love for her family and friends, Kat loved animals - especially cats - and was a proud co-founder of the Sheridan Second Chance Cat Rescue.

Kat is survived by her husband, Nick and a son D.J. (Amy) Bowman of Idaho Falls, Idaho and daughter Cassie (Cory) Rehder of Dayton. She also leaves behind her mother, Dorcas Ward of Sheridan; sister Tamra (Dustin Whistler) Ward of Denver, Colorado and grandchildren Xander, Caydon, Zoe and Garen Bowman and Megan and Hailey Rehder.



Lois Elaine Warfel

Lois Elaine Warfel of Custer, SD, passed away on September 27, 2018. Lois was born in Pierre, SD on June 19, 1930, to her parents Arthur E. and Dorothy F. Stinnett. The family lived in Pierre until 1936, when they moved to a suburb of Los Angeles, CA. It was here that Elaine developed the traits of independence and self-reliance that were to remain with her throughout her life. As told by her mother, Elaine would occasionally take public transportation to the beach at Santa Monica by herself, spend the day, and return home at supper time.

In April 1942, the family moved back to SD, settling in Custer and renting a small log cabin near the former elementary school. That first year Elaine attended seventh grade in town, but when the family moved to a six-acre tract south of town she walked the two miles to rural Evergreen school for eighth grade. She attended Custer High School and graduated in 1948. Shortly after graduation Elaine married Fred D. (Duff) Warfel. She had various jobs while balancing being a mother and helping support her family. Ultimately, she was employed for nearly 25 years by the Forest Service in Custer and retired in 1993. Initially, retirement was boring for Elaine, so she enrolled in real estate

classes and became involved with that business for several years. Elaine was an avid bowler and ping-pong player. Few could beat her at cribbage. She also enjoyed her involvement with the VFW and with the Custer Senior Center and became a resident at Rose Haven Senior Living facility in 2012.

Elaine is survived by her children: Jeff (Laurie), Joe (Shirley), Judy (Curt); grandchildren: David Warfel (Brenda), Heidi Warfel, William Warfel (Becky); great grand- son: Clayton Warfel. Also surviving are: brother Landy (RoseAnn) Stinnett; nieces: Erica Beeson, Kathleen Stinnett, Charlene Stinnett and Lou Rensch, special family friend.



John Clark Windsor Jr.



John Clark Windsor Jr. of Windsor, CO passed away November 22, 2021. He was born on January 11, 1931, in Jackson, Michigan and welcomed into the family by Clark and Julia (Griffin) Windsor. John grew up in Denver, CO and graduated from East High School in 1949. He served in the Air Force from 1951-1952 in Korea and graduated from Colorado A&M with a BS in forestry in 1956 and married the love of his life Janice Priebe in Denver.

He had a successful, and enjoyable 30- year career working for public land management agencies (BLM and USFS) with duty stations in Durango; Lakewood; Custer, SD; Sundance, WY and Fort Collins, CO. His love for growing trees never stopped. Before he retired, he started planting Christmas trees. After retirement he and Janice and the family spent 30 years helping many families make memories coming to their farm and cutting Christmas trees. John loved the outdoors and shared this love with his family through numerous hiking and camping trips they took over the years. He could be found on a daily basis outside working on a project of some kind, whether it be building something, repairing some piece of equipment or tending to and caring for the trees on the tree farm.

He was very involved with his Episcopal Church in Windsor, always in involved in organizations like scouts Habitat for Humanity, and SAF. If there was a community event going on he was there and offering a hand or providing support.

He is survived by his wife Janice; children, Jerry (Peggy), Andy (Paula), Paul (Lori), and Anne (Jon); grandchildren, Josh, Sarah, Zach, Mary, Cynthia, Audrey, Arvid, Amanda, and 9 great-grandchildren.



*A limb has fallen from the family tree,
that says please don't grieve for me.
Remember the Best Times, the laughter, the song,
the Good Life I lived while I was strong.*





To all the Forest Service employees, retirees, families, and friends who gather here at the Memorial Grove to honor and reflect. Thank You!

This annual event is made possible by your support and the support of the Pikes Peak Ranger District and the Rocky Mountaineers (a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization).

Thanks to Brent Botts, retired Pikes Peak ranger, for the lunch arrangements!

To help cover the costs of maintenance and ceremony expenses, including lunch, donations can be made to the Rocky Mountaineers!

**Rocky Mountaineers
P.O. Box 270462
Fort Collins, CO 80527**