



# The Rendezvous

The Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association

Volume 4 - Number 2

## Remembering the Centennial

National Forests - 1891-1991

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*"The official newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Forest Service Association, the Rocky Mountaineers." Editions are published Fall, Winter, and Spring and posted on-line.*

It was twenty-five years ago that the Forest Service had a year-long celebration culminating in a week long event in Cody, Wyoming.

This birthday was an unusual sort of government celebration, that's because we didn't commemorate the birth of our agency, but the birth of an idea. That idea was conservation - the wise use of our natural resources. Although the word conservation was coined a little earlier, the conservation movement became a significant force in the United States only 125 years ago in 1891. It was born with the establishment of the first unit of what has become the 191-million acre National Forest System.

The Centennial celebration was an opportunity to generate interest in and awareness of the National Forest System - and its individual forests, grasslands and research forests - as a significant

entity in itself and its significant contribution to American culture.

The National Forest System is the most significant, scenic, ecologically diverse and geologically dispersed land under single ownership in the United States (sorry Ken Burns - the USFS is the best idea). National forests have been important to the economic development of the West, are important to today's economy and will continue to be so for many years in the future.



Several national events served as the core of the National Forest System Centennial celebration. These included participation in the Rose Bowl Parade, the re-dedication of the Nation's first forest reserve in Cody, Wyoming with all its festivities; several dedications, including the National Firefighters Memorial and Marias Pass; the National Poster Art Competition; and the National Stamp contest.

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The Shoshone National Forest was part of the first forest reserve to be designated after the Forest Reserve Act of 1891. At that time it was called the Yellowstone Park Timber Land Reserve. It was the perfect place to celebrate the birth of the idea of conservation and public land.



*The fine art of two people playing one fiddle is demonstrated by Lynn Young on the bow, and Marchel Kelley on the "fiddlesticks" at the weekly Thursday night Jam Session in the Occidental Saloon.*

*Courtesy WyoFile*

The Shoshone National Forest and Supervisor Barry Davis took the lead in a ten day celebration that involved the entire Forest, the Cody community and major corporate partners. It was a gigantic effort that involved hundreds of people to plan and implement. And the celebration successfully raised the awareness of the national forest, public land and conservation ideals.

Months of community planning and creative thinking resulted in dozens of separate events that had to have logistics worked out, funding arranged and manpower trained. Some

of the highlights included a conservation forum of national conservation leaders which led to the formation of the National Forest Foundation; an Independence Day parade through downtown Cody with the theme "100 Years of Conservation;" a free BBQ for 5000 people at the Wapiti Ranger Station, that included fiddlers, antique Forest Service vehicles, smoke jumpers and speeches and dedications by the Chief, USDA representatives, Wilford Brimley, and many other luminaries; a large Centennial Time Capsule was buried at the Wapiti Ranger Station that includes memorabilia, letters from employees and public, and other

significant items to be opened in 2091; a pony express ride that carried 100th anniversary mail on horseback; a mule packing demonstration and contest that included eleven Forest Service and Park Service mule teams from around the nation; an antique airplane exhibit; a conservation leader dinner and discussion at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, including a taped address from President Bush, Sr.; and a public celebration on the grounds of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. In addition there were field trips, demonstrations, music, downtown store window

displays, media interviews, film crews, and much more.

Much was learned about planning special events. From these lessons learned, Scott Fitzwilliams and I wrote a guide to planning special events to be help to others in the future.

Significant lessons were learned in the 1991 Cody Celebration.

People appreciate and will join together to celebrate America's foresight to set aside millions of acres of public land for the public good, regardless of current and past debate on how they should be managed. People agree that it's great to have national forests to argue over.

A small forest staff can successfully accomplish an enormous project with the backing of regional and national resources and the wholehearted effort of an entire community. A lot can be accomplished by the owners of national forests if the Forest Service provides the appropriate leadership.

Corporate partnerships can work to public advantage. The 1991 celebration included many partnerships that benefited the public. Much of the significant cost of the 1991 celebration was born by TCI, Inc., the largest cable company that knew that being a good neighbor in a significant, important campaign is good business.

The Forest Service learned a lot about cultivating and growing partnerships.

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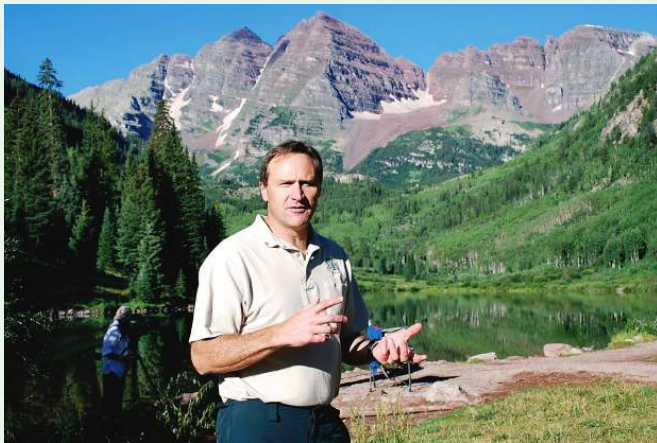
The Incident Command System can be used for planning large special events.

For me personally it had a huge impact on my career and life. In 1991 I was detailed to Cody from the Regional Office for six months and assumed a leadership role in the celebration. It required long

hours, high pressure, creativity to accomplish projects that were uncommon to regular Forest Service business, and required a close relationship with the entire community of Cody. It honed my skills of negotiation and persuasion. In Cody I fell in love twice...once with Wyoming, where I now

happily reside, and again with the TCI marketing manager, Shawn Lieuallen, who has been my wonderful wife for 21 years. For lots of reasons, the Centennial was good for me!

*Lynn Young  
Retiree*



*Scott Fitzwilliams, supervisor of the White River National Forest, is in his sixth year at the helm. Courtesy - Summit Daily*

I remember when Denny Bschor told me he had a job for me. "I need you to go help plan a birthday party in Cody, Wyoming", he said. That sounds easy and fun I thought; "Where the heck is Cody, Wyoming?"

This was my first "real" job with the Forest Service and as I think back 25 years later, I consider myself the luckiest employee in the outfit to have such an experience. It was so much more than a birthday party. Instead it was like completing a thesis on the greatest conservation idea on earth. Immersing myself in the history, controversy and politics of the national forest ideal was the best

way to start my career. I was able to learn and understand the history behind the incubation of the public lands system in America. My experience in Cody certainly shaped my entire professional career and I met some of the finest people who I still call friends today.

The time I spent in Cody working on the Centennial was the most memorable of my career. It gave me a foundation and taught me the value of community engagement, creativity and how partners can be pivotal in helping us achieve our mission. It also taught me the value of mentorship and coaching. Without the guidance from Lynn Young, Barry Davis and the employees on the Shoshone National Forest, I don't think my career would have turned out the way it has.

Fast forward twenty five years and now I find myself as Supervisor of the other "first National Forest". The White River shares with the Shoshone this distinction. I am continually humbled by the responsibility and honor to oversee one of our nation's firsts!

*Scott Fitzwilliams  
Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest*



## N. Col/S. Wyo Lunch



*Priscilla Foster, Steve Currey, Hilarie Betz,  
Jim Myers, Susan Kay*

A group of Rocky Mountaineers (plus a few non-members) from Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming gathered for lunch at C.B. Potts in Ft. Collins in early March. About 40 people attended. There was no agenda, but lots of visiting and laughing and we signed up some new members. The group decided to get together for lunch every 3 or 4 months throughout the year. The lunches will rotate between Ft. Collins in Colorado and Laramie or Cheyenne in Wyoming.



*Rich Winston, Mike Parks, Robin Winston, Jackie Parks*



*Colleen and Wayne Shepperd, Darlene Sanderson*

We have set up a mailing list for members living in an area bordered by Longmont on the south and Laramie and Cheyenne on the north. We had some members from the Denver area attend the lunch. If you would like to be included on the mailing list, drop a note to us at [rmountaineers@gmail.com](mailto:rmountaineers@gmail.com)

Our next lunch is planned for June in either Cheyenne or Laramie. Everyone is invited, including current Forest Service employees and non-member retirees. ■

### ***How To Contact "Rocky Mountaineers"***

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Tom Thompson, [tommylthompson@comcast.net](mailto:tommylthompson@comcast.net), 303-933-2135

Membership & Others - P.O. Box 270462, Fort Collins, CO 80527

# Memorial Grove Work Day

*April 28, 2016*

In preparation of this year's Memorial Grove ceremony, the Rocky Mountaineers held a work day on April 28. It was a cold day but we had eight Rocky Mountaineers and seven people from the Pikes Peak District. We were very impressed with the young energetic folks who helped us from the District.



The combined crew cleared grass and roots from the trail, removed old fire rings and picnic tables, removed debris, and planted a few replacement trees. This is the first year of a separate day to do maintenance work at the site and it was truly a *"collaborative restoration partnership"* with gloves and tools.

One of our next projects is to replace the buck and rail fence that has deteriorated quite a bit over the years. In June the National Smokejumper Association will have a work crew at the Memorial Grove site to undertake some work on restoring an irrigation system that was first built by the CCC's in the late 1930's.

The average age of the Rocky Mountaineers who participated was probably a bit over 72 and the average age of the crew who we worked alongside was probably 19, so we had a great chance to share stories and better appreciate each other. ■

"Nothing compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land an even better place for our descendants than it is for us."

—Theodore Roosevelt

# Rocky Mountaineers 3rd Annual Ski Day

## *February 3, 2016*

A hearty group of Rocky Mountaineers took advantage of perfect snow conditions and braved a cold and windy day for great fellowship on the ski slopes at Winter Park on February 3, 2016. We postponed the event by one day due to poor road conditions on the 2nd. The snow conditions were great but the wind was strong and cold, so we took a bit longer warming up at Lunch Rock at noon.

The temperature stayed around zero most of the day so it wasn't a shirt sleeve day.

Everyone enjoyed the day and stayed for a toast at the lodge afterward. Doug Laraby from Winter Park again helped us with the special arrangements for the day and he and Sulphur District Ranger Craig Magwire, who has now retired, joined us for lunch.



Lunch clockwise from front: Ed Ryberg, Lynn Larsen, Greg Warren, Nancy Warren, Doug Laraby, Robin Langowski, Paul Langowski, Roger Tarum, and Dan Nolan.



The table with the huge French Dip and pile of fries: (left to right) Craig Magwire, Glen Hetzel, Tom Thompson, and Lyle Laverty.

Our special thanks to Doug and also to Bjorn Dahl, who was our wagon master did a great job of getting everyone on the slope and safely back to the lodge where we had time to warm up and present a few special prizes. ■



Foreground (left-right) Doug Laraby and Bjorn Dahl, In the back (Left-right) Tom Thompson, Nancy Warren, Robin Langowski,, Greg Warren, Paul Langowski, Roger Tarum, Craig Magwire, Dan Nolan, Lynn Larsen, Ed Ryberg and Glen Hetzel, Greg Warren, Steve Williams and Steve Johnson. (Lyle Laverty was on the phone)



# Scholarship Winners Announced



The Rocky Mountaineers have granted \$1500 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors in Colorado and

Wyoming. This is the second year of our scholarship program and we are pleased to be able to help support the education of such deserving students who have connections to Rocky Mountaineers. The two individuals selected for these awards this year are Abigail Hogan of Hearthside School in Powell, Wyoming and Anna Huckabee of New Vista High School in Boulder, Colorado.

Abigail is a hard persistent worker who was raised on a ranch near Powell. Abigail was active in 4-H and has raised her own cattle and sheep. She plans to attend Central Wyoming College and pursue a career in natural resources or biology.

Anna has strong interests in the outdoors and has been certified as a firefighter by her local volunteer fire department and wants to be a smokejumper. She plans to attend the University of Idaho and study natural resource management with emphasis on fire.

We received fourteen quality applications from graduating high school seniors who were talented, hard-working, energetic, and diverse. Every applicant was supported and endorsed by a member of the Rocky Mountaineers. With strong support from our membership, we hope to be able to continue this program and look forward to being able to add additional scholarships in the years ahead. Donations to support this overall scholarship program can be made anytime throughout the year or special memorial donations in honor of family, friend, or associate as desired. Additional information can be found on the Rocky Mountaineer website. ■



*Anna Huckabee*

"My name is Anna Huckabee from Boulder Co, I'm a senior in high school at New Vista High School and a cadet on my local fire department, Boulder Mountain Fire Protection District.

Once in high school all I ever wanted to do was go to college but I was scared. I was scared that my parents didn't have enough money and I would want to go somewhere we couldn't afford.

And also what kind of school would have a fire program?

The answer, the middle of nowhere Moscow, Idaho. The

University of Idaho has the only fire programs in the United States that offers students many fire based degrees. This fall I will be attending UI for a degree in Fire Science & Wild Land Ecology and a minor in forestry.

Without the amazing help of my department and Maryanne Kurtainitis this scholarship opportunity would have not been possible. I feel so grateful that I was chosen and I can not say thank you enough to all of you who made this possible. Thank you."

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*Abigail Hogan*

“I’m Abbie Hogan, a high school senior in Powell, WY. I will be attending Northwest college in Powell, Wyoming, this fall where I will be pursuing an Associate of Science degree in Natural Resource Biology. I plan to transfer to the University of Wyoming in two years to complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology.

This Scholarship will help me meet my academic goals as well as being a huge step towards accomplishing my goal of graduating debt free from college. It is an honor to receive this scholarship.”

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## **Volunteer demands new minimum wage!**



Most members of the Rocky Mountaineers receive their copy of The Rendezvous electronically, but we also print 50 hard copies of every edition for those members without email addresses.

This requires printing mailing labels and return address labels and attaching them to envelopes and stuffing the envelopes with a copy of The Rendezvous along with a cover letter and then a trip to the post office for stamps.

For some reason, our granddaughter, Elloria, who just turned 5, loves to help with the process and we never turn down volunteer labor. I’m not sure if she inherited her good looks and intelligence from her grandparents, but we will take full credit. Ellie is our youngest Rocky Mountaineer volunteer!

*Johnny and Ellen Hodges*



## Rocky Mountaineers Board Chair



*Dan Nolan*

Greetings everyone, I hope that by now you are enjoying springtime in the Rockies. At my house we have finally seen bluebirds return along with the emergence of our ground squirrels – spring is here.

What is becoming a traditional Rocky Mountaineers winter event was our ski day at Winter Park in February. A dozen or so of us were joined by the Sulphur District Ranger Craig Magwire for a great day of skiing on the Arapaho National Forest. Thanks to Bjorn Dahl for coordinating this day on the mountain.

This issue of the Rendezvous includes a report on the recipients of this year's Rocky Mountaineers scholarships. This is the second year of the scholarship program and thanks are due to the many donors to the scholarship fund and to the selection committee of Ellen Hodges, Tom Thompson, and Nancy Warren. This is one way that we can invest in the future.

A special and unique part of the Rocky Mountaineers mission is to continue the

recognition of those Region 2 Forest Service employees who have passed away at the annual ceremony at the Memorial Grove on the Pikes Peak Ranger District. Last year I attended this very moving ceremony for the first time and enjoyed hearing of the lives and careers of the honorees from their family members and coworkers. I'm looking forward to attending again this year.

Keeping in touch with Forest Service happenings, connecting with former coworkers, and telling tall tales of our careers with the "outfit" are some of the benefits of membership in the Rocky Mountaineers. Our website provides one means for doing this, and many thanks are due to our fantastic webmaster Bill Disbrow. Bill is always looking for news items and stories to post, so please send them his way and check out the webpage from time to time to see what's new: <http://rockymountaineers.us>.

Finally, a reminder of our next gathering in the Black Hills, August 29-31. I hope to see you there.

*Dan Nolan*

## Southern Arizona Picnic - Madera Canyon



Front (l to r) Dottie Carr, Mary Lillie, Patty Lynch, Judy Martin, Kerwin Dewberry (Forest Supervisor, Coronado NF), Debra Corner, John Mumma

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Lillie, Pat Lynch, Eric Martin, Roger Corner, Jim Hagemeier, Bob Newlin

3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie Twiss, Jan Newlin, Barbara Ficke, Jim Ficke

4<sup>th</sup> John Twiss, Dennis Lynch, Dave Nelson, Lee Carr, Mikel Shilling, Don Campbell

## Every Day is Saturday Report

Direct from the official U.S. Forest Service retirements lists. ALL USE OF THIS DATA IN WHOLE, PART, OR AS TEXT, MUST CREDIT THIS NFC FOCUS REPORT. FROM 01/01/16 to 03/31/16

**REPORT: FS.HRTRE05. RUN DATE 04/20/16**

**Franklin Jackson**  
Regional Office

**Sandra LaFarr**  
Regional Office

**Nancy Miller**  
Regional Office

**Elsa Ruiz**  
Regional Office

**Sally Zwisler**  
Regional Office

**William Matthews**  
Bighorn NF

**Donald Boone, Jr.**  
Black Hills NF

**Judy Schutza**  
GMUG NF

**Hilaire Peck**  
Med Bow Routt NF

**Theodore Floyd**  
Rio Grande NF

**Richard Bennin**  
Pike San Isabel NF

**Daniel Escobedo**  
Pike San Isabel NF

**Samuel Schroeder**  
Pike San Isabel NF

**Ralph Stevenson**  
Pike San Isabel NF

**Vicky Duvall**  
San Juan NF

**Elizabeth Haydon**  
San Juan NF

**Cynthia Keller**  
White River NF

## Reunion 2018 Update

Forest Service retirees, employees, and friends from throughout the U. S. will gather in Asheville, North Carolina September 24 – 28, 2018, for a week of renewing friendships and visiting the birthplace of forestry in the U.S. The Crown Plaza Resort – Asheville has been chosen as the venue. This



*The Crown Plaza Resort,  
Asheville, North Carolina.*

including the Cradle of Forestry, the Biltmore Estate, Chimney Rock Park, Mount Mitchell, and a

facility has 11 meeting rooms and 34,000 square feet of meeting space including a large Expo Center. It is 1 mile from Asheville city center with a free shuttle van.

As most of you know, Asheville has a lot of forestry history,

host of other field trip opportunities. The Reunion will continue to provide maximum time for visiting and socializing with friends we have not seen for a while.

We expect the registration process to be operational by September 2016. Although hotel reservations cannot be made early, (hotel reservations cannot be made until one year prior to the Reunion), everyone is encouraged to submit their registrations as soon as the process and forms are ready, even during 2016 or 2017. This will give your team information about the number of attendees to better prepare for an outstanding reunion. Information will be available through the FS Retiree Newsletters and email distribution lists and the web site, <http://2018.fsreunions.org>.

Your leadership team is: Dave Jolly, Chair; Liz Agpaoa, Deputy Chair / CFO: and Sid Haggard, Deputy Chair.

## Finance and Membership Report



The Rocky Mountaineers are continuing to manage and track donations for several categories of funds. These include the general operating fund, the Scholarship fund and the Memorial Grove fund. You are invited to make donations to these funds at any time. Go to

our website for details on how to donate.

The Rocky Mountaineers are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and all donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Let us know if you would like a receipt.

In order to maximize our assets, Rocky Mountaineers also invest in a long term investment account outside of our regular checking and saving accounts.

As per our by-laws, we conducted an internal audit of our 2015 financial records in March. No major problems were identified and helpful adjustments were suggested. Our many thanks to Deb and Eric Jensen for their thorough review and accompanying report.

Our membership as of the end of April has grown to 392 members. We have gained 18 new Lifetime Memberships giving us a total of 70 "lifers".

### Our newest Lifetime Members are:

Brian and Ann Armel – Cody, WY

Cheri Bashor – Pueblo West, CO

James and Marlene Carson – Grand Junction, CO

Richard and Carol Cook – Redvale, CO

Melissa Halliday – Morrison, CO

Tom and Susan Hoots – Ft. Mill, SC

Allen and Meghan McCaw – Ignacio, CO

Kurt and Sharon Muenchow – Evergreen, CO

Suzi Muir-Bradshaw and Greg Bradshaw –  
Littleton, CO

Dan Nolan and Merilyn Hunter –  
Hot Sulphur Springs, CO

Michele O'Connell and James Schwartz, Jr. –  
Arvada, CO

Gary Patton – Golden, CO

Paul and Mary Randolph –  
Steamboat Springs, CO

Frank and Susan Roth – Powell, WY

Jerry and Jeanetta Schmidt – Laramie, WY

Glenn and Heidi Snyder – Lakewood, CO

Denise Tomlin – Lakewood, CO

LuAnn Waida – Lakewood, CO

You can become a Lifetime Member at any time for \$250 per household. Help our membership continue to grow by recruiting new members. Joining is easy – just go to our website at <http://rockymountaineers.us> and click on the "membership" link. Membership is now free for the first year for all new members.





## NAFSR REPORT

*by Tom L. Thompson, Rocky Mountain Region NAFSA representative*

Jim Golden has stepped down as President of the Association effective May 1, 2016. Larry Payne, who serves as the Vice-president, is serving as the Interim President and will do so until a permanent replacement is approved by the Board.

The priorities for 2016 are aligned into three broad categories: Advocacy, Membership, and Relationships

**Advocacy** - The following are the priorities that will guide our advocacy in 2016:

**Funding Catastrophic Fire Suppression** - We will continue to seek solution to fund fire suppression costs.

**Restoration and Related Policy/Process Reform** - We will support critical restoration and rehabilitation

**Keeping Public Lands Public** - We will strive to do all we can to keep the National Forest System intact.

**Multiple Use and Agency Mission** - We will stand up for all of the agency's multiple use mission areas

**Transition of New Administration** - We will prepare to engage and connect with a new administration.

**Members** - Our members give us strength and purpose and we need to ensure we keep connected and relevant:

**Services** - We will improve service and value to our members

**Communication and Involvement** - We will work to connect and engage with our members better.

**Expanding Membership** - We will work to grow our membership and our influence.

**Relationships** - We will focus on building strong respectful ties with the agency and our partners

**Forest Service** - We will work to strengthen this relationship, seek a MOU, and share information better.

**Coalitions** - We will partner with other entities to advance our priorities.

We welcome all Rocky Mountaineers to join in and support NAFSR as it works on these priorities in 2016. Contact Johnny Hodges, NAFSR Secretary/Treasurer for more information!



## National Museum of Forest Service History

*by Tom L. Thompson, President of NMFSH*

I am pleased to announce that we have selected Lisa Tate of Moorhead, MN as our new Executive Director. Lisa will begin work for the Museum in August. She currently is the Executive Director of the Red River Zoological Society in Fargo, ND and was recently named Woman of the Year in Fargo. Lisa has 27 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector. She is well respected in the nonprofit and conservation communities and has comprehensive understanding of nonprofit best practices, fund raising, and board development.

Lisa grew up in Missoula, MT and the mountains and forests around Missoula had a great influence on her life. She looks forward to being a part of the National Museum of Forest Service History. Dave Stack will continue to serve as Executive Director until Lisa comes on board. She plans to attend our Board meeting in Oregon in early August and we know she will bring lots of new energy, leadership, and ideas to help us meet our mission and goals.

## What's Funny?



A cartoon attacking Pinchot and his ranger corps, from the *Leadville Press*, October 23, 1908.

*Courtesy Denver Public Library, Conservation Library Center*

A forester and a lawyer were in car accident and showed up at the pearly gates together.

St. Peter greets them at the pearly gates and takes them to the homes where they will spend all of eternity. They get into St. Peter's holy vehicle and head on down a gold road, which turns into a platinum road, which turns onto an even grander road paved with diamonds, to a huge mansion where St. Peter turns to the lawyer and says, here is your home for the rest of eternity, enjoy! And if there is anything you need, just let me know.

Then St. Peter took the forester to his home, back down the diamond studded boulevard, down the platinum highway, down the street of gold, down an avenue of silver, along a stone alley and down an unpaved footpath to a shack. St Peter says "Here you go" and goes to leave when the forester says "Waitaminute!, how come the lawyer gets the big mansion and I get this shack?"

St. Peter says: "Well, foresters are a dime a dozen here, we have never had a lawyer before."

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

- George Bernard Shaw

# Craig Bobzien Retires from Black Hills

by Frank Carroll



*Craig Bobzien*

There's so much baloney written about leadership I hesitate to start. But I have something to say about somebody who led us through chaos with courage and kindness.

Craig Bobzien knew he wanted to be a forest ranger when he was nine years old. He got that part down pretty well. In fact, he was a ranger for 15 years

and would probably say those were the best of times. But for those of us who worked with him, for him or around him, his time on the Black Hills as forest supervisor were the best of times. And he got here just in time.

A day before he was supposed to arrive, the 2005 Ricco Canyon Fire broke near Piedmont. Just weeks before his last day on the job, the Cold Fire provided the book end to a storied career. In 2005, we were still trying to figure out what happened and what to do next. In 2016, we know what's happening, and we're doing the right things in the right ways.

The steel steady hand of Craig Bobzien on the tiller of our mighty ship made all the difference. It was Craig who led us through the "hard Look" at timber management to race the bugs to preserve our forests. It was Craig who established the Conservation Leaders by simply observing that it should be so, gaining their full support. It was Craig whose vision led to the Mountain Pine Beetle Working Group, Craig who led the National Forest Advisory Board to be an important voice in forest management and cooperation, and Craig who set the stage for maintaining resilient forests in coming years. Craig Bobzien is the best the Forest Service has to offer — and his best is extraordinary.

Early in 2005, then Regional Forester Rick Cables told us a new guy was coming to run the show. He wouldn't say who but told us, "You're going to love him."

I later asked Rick how he knew. He said he just did. And he was right. Craig taught us to look at the art of the possible. What are we? What can we become? He showed our communities, "Gateway Communities," that National Forest management can't work without their full participation. "If we had 100 law enforcement officers it wouldn't be enough," he said. We have to trust people to care for what they own and they own this forest. He was right.

He didn't do a lot of telling. He did a lot of listening. And when he did talk, he referred to a card he carried in his wallet with two pictures of his Uncle Howard. One was Howard being goofy at a party with a big smile. Craig could be that Howard. The other was Howard the soldier in dress uniform with lots of medals for courage under fire. Howard got shot in the head in two different wars and came back swinging. Craig was that Howard, too.

During a wildfire exercise one afternoon, the leader whose park was under siege was seen smiling and laughing in the middle of "planning for chaotic events in a meaningful way." Why so calm, I asked? Craig's here, she said, what could go wrong? Not much. And if things did go wrong, it was Craig who knew how to bury our dead, get us all back on the horse, and push on.

"To really be powerful, you have to give up control," he said.

And it didn't hurt to be humble and skillful and focused on the people who inspired him — all of us. Thanks for everything, Craig. ■

*Frank Carroll is a retiree and freelance writer and columnist. He can be reached by emailing [frankcarrollpfm@gmail.com](mailto:frankcarrollpfm@gmail.com) or visiting [blackhillsforestpros.com](http://blackhillsforestpros.com).*



# Super Bowl Fifty

by Karen Bergethon

When the Denver Broncos won the AFC Championship game in January, we knew we had to see the next game in person. So we started planning our trip to Super Bowl 50!

My husband Rik and I have been Broncos season ticket holders for 21 years and had been to 2 previous Super Bowls. We bought a travel package for Super Bowl 50 that was a one-day blitz; it included a round trip Southwest charter flight from Denver to Oakland, round trip bus transportation from Oakland to Santa Clara, a pregame party, game tickets, and souvenirs.

Living in Pueblo, we wanted to spend the night before in Denver, so Saturday night we stayed at the new Westin Hotel that's about 50 feet from the DIA terminal. We had to be at DIA at 5:00 Sunday morning. At that early hour everybody in the terminal was decked out in orange and blue. We checked in with our Southwest charter and felt like we were jumping up and down until the 7:00 a.m. departure time.

Finally we're on the plane, excitement through the roof, somebody says: where are we going? Omaha! The plane is racing down the runway, wheels up and everybody's cheering and yelling! I could hardly breathe, THIS IS IT!

We arrive at Oakland airport and buses are parked on the

There was heavy security everywhere, from the local police department to the National Guard to Homeland Security, with SWAT teams, armored vehicles, heavy weapons and helicopters flying overhead. One of the stadium employees told us we were in the safest place on earth that day. We believed it.



*Rik and I photo bombing our friend at the AFC Championship game in Denver in January, our faces tell the story: next stop Super Bowl!*

The pregame party had food tents, drink tents, tables with orange table cloths, giveaways, music playing, and Broncos alumni. We met people from everywhere, the NFL is truly world-wide, or maybe just the Broncos are!

Time to line up for security, where we set off the metal

tarmac waiting for us. Everybody got an NFL clear bag with the Super Bowl 50 logo on it containing a game program, lanyard, commemorative football, small football helmet, lapel pin, and rally towel. The drivers fired up the buses and we're off to Santa Clara, about a 40-minute drive. We park 2 blocks from the stadium, and step off the bus into Super Bowl territory, hallowed ground!

detectors with all the buttons and beads we're wearing. Then into the stadium, San Francisco 49ers stadium, we could hardly believe we were there! Our seats were on the first level, Broncos side of the field, near the goal line. All the fans around us were orange and blue and they all had the same looks on their faces that we did: WE MADE IT!

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The weather was perfect, sunny and 76 degrees. Pregame entertainment started and then the teams were introduced, the Broncos ran onto the field right in front of us! All the while we're taking in the scope of the stadium, thinking there are millions of people watching this game, but only 80,000 are actually here and how cool that we're among them!

Finally, the game starts! We're screaming and cheering and yelling our heads off, the Broncos took the lead in the game and never gave it up. The game just felt better and better as it went on, we're going to win this! And suddenly it's halftime.

The halftime entertainment included the crowd, with all of us holding up big colored sheets of paper, following the cues appearing on the jumbo screen.

During the second half we were so proud of our defense, so relieved that our offense could score enough points, and extremely happy to see our opponents getting so frustrated! We read that 80% of the crowd was Broncos fans, and we could hear every one of them cheering at the top of their lungs.

The final minutes were counting down on the game clock and BAM, game's over, WE WON WE WON WE WON!! We're so happy, thrilled, excited, and proud that we've won another Super Bowl!



*The picture was taken off the TV. You can see my white head to the right of center, and Rik is standing beside me. The colorful couple on the other side of me is what I think really attracted the camera!*

The trophy presentation was done at our end of the field, and we were showered with black and gold confetti, the colors of Super Bowl 50.

And unexpectedly we got our 3 seconds of fame when we were on TV three times! Rik and I were each in separate crowd shots during the game, and both of us were on TV during the trophy ceremony. We think the camera really liked the couple next to us who were in face paint, orange wigs, and elaborate Bronco costumes.

Luckily we were standing next to them!

We took our time leaving the stadium, just to soak it all in. Panther fans were very quiet on their way out and we didn't see any trouble anywhere, just thousands of joyous orange and blue people like us!

So back to the buses we walked and headed to the Oakland airport to board our flight. We thought we'd sleep on the way home, but we were so jazzed by the game that we could hardly sit still in our seats.

We arrived at DIA and got back to our hotel room at 3:30 Monday morning. What a 24 hours it had been! We finally got to sleep for a few hours and drove home Monday afternoon.

We recorded the game at home and we've watched it 5 times and will watch it again and again. Wow!

We were there and we won!

And a shout out to the federal government, keep those retirement checks rolling in, you never know, we may need to save up for Super Bowl 51! ■

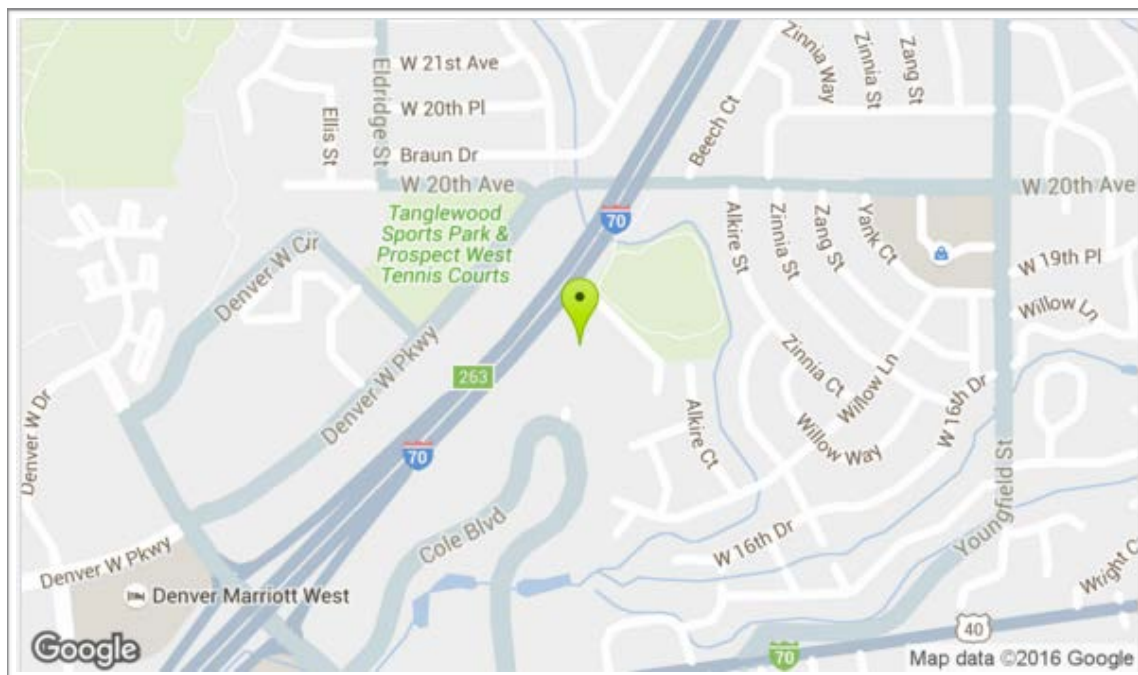
## Regional Office to Move

*Really...they are NOT kidding this time...this time it's for real.*

Since 1993, the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Regional Headquarters, has been located at 740 Simms Street, Golden, Colorado. After many years and failed efforts of securing office space, I am excited to announce that General Services Administration has awarded a new lease on behalf of the Region Two Regional Office, National Office of Job Corps, Washington Office Minerals and Geology, CIO and Office of General Counsel along with other existing hosted staffs. Our target move-in date is set for Spring, 2017. The combined offices will be located at:

center and complimentary shuttle service that provides service within a 3 mile radius of the park between the hours of 6:30 am to 6:30 pm. Currently, the shuttle provides service to and from the Oak Street Light Rail Station.

At this time, Building 17 is completely vacant and undergoing renovations to ensure it is brought up to the most current federal building standards for accessibility, indoor air quality, and safety. In the near future, the design of our workplace will begin.



**Denver West Office Park  
1617 Cole Boulevard (Bldg. 17)  
Lakewood, CO 80401**

The Denver West Office Park is approximately 3 miles west of our current location. Our building will be part of a campus consisting of 22 separate buildings situated in a park-like environment with landscaped courtyards and walking paths. Some of the park amenities include outdoor kitchens, volleyball courts, conference facilities, fitness

We look forward to creating a space that facilitates an efficient and effective way to work. Through the use of central filing, dedicated printer/copier areas, and a reduction in office and workstation sizes, we will realize more collaborative space and meeting rooms. The recent investment in equipment to support wireless connectivity and VOIP telecommunication will allow us to simply unplug and move these devices to our new office.

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A move of this size is complex and has many moving parts. We will continue to coordinate with management, GSA and the building owners as well as bringing in appropriate staff resources from engineering, safety, CIO, property, and records as needed. Look for continuing communication in the form of newsletters, family meetings, and a new webpage designed specifically for the move! The webpage will allow us to share information as it becomes available, such as: general building

information, local area information (including transportation and restaurants), newsletters, frequently asked questions, information to assist employees with clean-up, timelines and schedules, design information, floor plans, and construction photos. ■

*Editor's Note:*

*The Regional Office move has been reported before in this space...[Rendezvous Winter Edition 2015](#) (page 16) We will continue to monitor this moving story.*

## Annual Gathering in Black Hills

*Save the Date - August 29-31, 2016*

Join us at the 2016 Annual Gathering of the Rocky Mountaineers in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota August 29-31, 2016. Pre-gathering opportunities begin August 26th and 27th with the 1st Annual Southern Black Hills Music and Arts Festival on Pageant Hill in Custer, SD.

Golf the challenging and scenic Rocky Knolls Monday afternoon the 29th of August. Contact Marilee Bobzien at 605-673-5305 [Marilee.bobzien@gmail.com](mailto:Marilee.bobzien@gmail.com) to make your golf reservations.

**Monday Evening.** Join us Monday evening, August 29th, for an informal meet-and-greet at Crazy Horse Monument. Substantial snacks will be provided and a no-host bar will be available.

**Tuesday Morning.** After a very short business meeting and National FS Museum and Memorial Grove update you will be entertained and challenged with a historical presentation that is guaranteed to be a highlight of your visit to the Black Hills.

Afterwards; we will get an update on what is happening on the Black Hills National Forests by a Forest line officer.

Lunch on your own at Crazy Horse.

There will be opportunities to have fun on your own in and around Custer. Local retiree guides will help you plan out the afternoon. Bicycle the Mickelsen Trail from Crazy Horse to Hill City (12 miles all down hill), or tour the Custer Museum, or take a ride on the 1880's train in Hill City, or tour Custer State Park, Mount Rushmore, Wind Cave or Jewell Cave National Parks all of which are just minutes from Custer.

**Tuesday Evening.** Beginning at 5:00 PM there will be a catered dinner party at the Rocky Knolls Golf Course with live music from an ensemble of talented USFS employees.

**Wednesday** will be a day to pick and choose from two very special featured activities.

The first featured activity for Wednesday-Friday (all days or just one) is to volunteer to help with the Harney Peak Restoration Project. The R2 Pack String will be there and the district needs your assistance. Cut and paste the following link to view a Video produced by South Dakota Public Broadcasting regarding the restoration project <https://youtu.be/4a8CoS7yPx4>. If you are interested in helping for a day or more or if you just want to see a pack string demonstration, contact Lynn Kolund at 605-673-2272, [lkolund@me.com](mailto:lkolund@me.com).

The second featured activity for Wednesday is to participate in a guided tour of the Black Hills NF beginning in Custer and ending up in Deadwood, SD. Dave Thom will lead you on a historic adventure to visit and learn about Case #1; the very first USFS timber sale, what we've learned from the Black Hills Experimental Forest, the history of the Box Elder Job Corps and a tour of historic Mount Roosevelt.

Mark August 29-31 down on your calendar and join us as we make old acquaintances and wander the past and present of a great working forest.

**Recommended lodging:** The Econo-lodge will hold a block of rooms for us until July 28th for \$89.00. Call 605-673-2500 ext. 177 to make your reservation.

**Recommended RV parking** is Bismarck Lake Campground a National Forest Campground 4 miles east of Custer. ■

# "That's the Way I Remember it"

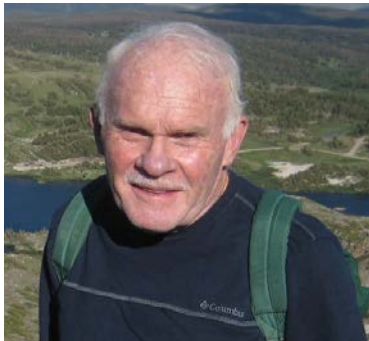
*Each newsletter we will be featuring an interview with retirees from R-2*

## Jerry Schmidt

*Forest Supervisor of the Medicine Bow/Routt NF and Thunder Basin NG  
Retiree Class of 2000 -42 Years of Service*

**The Rendezvous: Where were you born and raised?**

**Jerry Schmidt:** Born in Denver in July 1940 and raised in Englewood, CO.



**TR: Where did you go to school and what did you study?**

**JS:** I graduated from Colorado State University in June 1963 with a BS in Forest Recreation and Forest Management

**TR: How did you get interested in a job with the U.S. Forest Service?**

**JS:** My Dad was a Department Foreman in Gates Rubber Company and spent all day inside with operating machinery. My parents both thought that I would be healthier and happier if I had a chance to work outdoors. I had no other ideas so I decided to give it a try. Early on as I began working for the Forest Service I got hooked on doing public service work associated with our National Forests.

**TR: Did you have a seasonal job with the Forest Service?**

**JS:** Beginning in 1958 I worked three summers on the Pike NF. Two were on the Woodland Park RD as a Forestry Aid and one was out of the SO as member of the NFORRR (National Forest Outdoor Recreation Resource Review) inventorying and assessing potential recreation areas. My crew leader was Dale Matlack. I spent two summers '62 and '63 as a smokejumper in R6 at Cave Junction.

**TR: Tell us about your first job with the Forest Service.**

**JS:** My first FS job was forestry aid and my first project to do was to help transport a large new sign to the top of Pikes Peak and replace the old weathered sign. The new sign said Pikes Peak, Elevation 14,109 Feet. The sign we removed was with "Elevation 14,110 Feet". Today I think it is back to 14,110 feet. I always wondered about that. The work policy my first summer with the Forest Service was for us to report to work early enough to be starting on our project in the field at 8AM. Travel was on our own time. Therefore, to install the sign we met at the ranger station in Woodland Park at 7AM so we could start working on the sign switch on top of Pikes Peak at 8AM.



*Smoke jumping 1962.*

On my second day I again reported at 7AM and spent the day with two other men cleaning the Gold Camp road and recreation sites. Two of us rode on the running boards of our dark green pick-up with home-made broom stick spears (barbed nail on end) and speared cans and litter from the road side into

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garbage cans in the back of the pick-up. A week later I received my first fire suppression training and learned all about tools and pumps etc. Later, we developed a spring up on the Rampart Range, transplanted trees into Manitou picnic area and repaired several fences. All this was new to me and the work was a lot more fun and interesting than my previous jobs having three paper routes, harvesting hay or working as a bus boy at the Country Kitchen.

While working on the Woodland Park RD I stayed in a 8' x 12' canvas tent held up by a 2x4 frame and



*An 18 year old seasonal on the Pike National Forest in 1958.*

with a wooden floor. Keith Argow, 21 years old, was my tent mate. He now has a complete inventory of pictures and stories regarding all of the Nation's fire lookouts. Keith was naturalist for the Woodland Park RD and did public relations.

For no pay, I think, Assistant Ranger Ed Palpant's wife did most of the District paper work including our accounting for hours worked on various projects. Beginning my second summer, 1959, the work policy was modified and we split travel time between ourselves and the Forest Service when starting the work day.

**TR: Tell us about your career and the different jobs you held.**

**JS:** After the summer fire season in 1963 and having graduated from CSU I reported for duty to begin my career as a professional forester (GS 5) on the Santa Fe NF in R3. My first career job was to work with another forester named Jack Wade and do timber inventory on land owned by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) surrounding Los Alamos, NM. The Santa Fe NF had been contracted to do this. The contract Administrator for AEC, who gave us our direction, was Homer Pickens, former Director of NM Game and Fish. Homer was the person who saved and took care of Smokey Bear and later flew him back to Washington DC.

While employed with the Santa Fe NF in the fall of 1963 I received a pre-induction notice from the Selective Service draft and was ordered to take a physical for military duty. I was informed that I had 2-3 months to volunteer for something or be drafted into the US Army. After checking my options with the Marines and learning they had no openings in their OTS I applied for OCS in the Army and was accepted. When I told the Personnel Officer for the Forest I needed to resign. I was informed that the FS would like to enroll me in the accelerated forester program and keep me on their roles. I would remain a USFS employee on military leave and all I needed to do is let them know when I was about three months from being discharged from active duty. Later, when President Johnson decided to deploy American troops to Viet Nam I was a 2 Lt. Infantry Platoon leader in the First Infantry Division and also a Forester with the US Forest Service. After returning from Viet Nam I served in Ft. Gordon, Georgia and Jeanetta and I were married in July 1966.

When I came back to the Forest Service in early 1967 I was assigned to the GS 9 Range, Wildlife and Recreation staff position on the Magdalena RD on the Cibola NF. After 5 ½ years at Magdalena I was promoted to DFR on the Crown King RD of the Prescott NF. Later in 1976 I became Forest Staff on the Santa Fe NF for Fire and Fuels Management, Manpower training and development programs (300-400 enrollees in YAC and YCC) and Public Information.

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In 1980, after 14 years in R3, I moved to Wenatchee NF in R6 as Staff for Fire, Lands and Minerals.

In 1984 I took a staff position on the RPA (Resource Planning Act) staff in the WO.

In early spring of 1986 I was offered the Forest Supervisor job on the Routt NF and moved to Steamboat Springs in June of that year.

After seven years in this role my Medicine Bow NF colleague Gary Heath, who was about to retire, and I discussed the possibilities for combining our two NF administrative units, including the Thunder Basin NG, to reduce redundancy and overhead costs. Regional Forester Elizabeth Estill agreed to an experimental merger beginning in 1993. After three years the Medicine Bow/Routt NF and Thunder Basin NG became officially combined into one administrative unit as it is today. At the end of 2000 I retired at age 60.

**TR: Who were your early mentors that gave you good advice in your career?**

**JS:** I worked with some strong leaders and a few short term mentors along the way but probably the best morsels of insight came from watching some leaders and peers just doing their job. Our organization was motivated by and I was inspired by our leaders who displayed strong ethical character and behavior in the face of difficult and controversial situations. They did not let issues or problems of the moment distract them from long term goals and strategies. Their judgements and their leadership actions were consistently focused on doing the right thing. People who come to mind are Major Lockner while in Viet Nam, George Proctor, Forest Supervisor on Cibola NF, Jeff Sirmon RF in Region 6 and of course Gary Cargill RF in Region 2.

There several others and some are active retirees and peers so my list goes on and on.

Without a doubt my best critic and life mentor is my wife Jeanetta. She is not easily impressed with anything. And she would never in any way think like a bureaucrat. She was quick to let me know of her disapproved if I appeared or sounded like an insensitive bureaucrat hiding behind the rules. She helped me better understand what is most important to people who seek our public service and she helped me strengthen my communication skills writing and speaking.

**TR: What were the best and worst parts of your career?**

**JS:** Everywhere I worked most of the FS people were good hard working smart, honest, ethical, and moral people – and, thankfully, they were usually not afraid to speak their mind.

Most fun job was being a smokejumper. Keeping in touch with my smokejumper colleagues today is almost like belonging to a fraternity.

After retiring I worked as a consultant for 12 years with some of my favorite Forest Service associates Jim Webb, Dave Anderson and BLMs Donnie Sparks, doing things for a wide variety of clients from property owners, county and state

governments, and other land and resource agencies within the Rocky Mountain area. Our historical Forest Service experience and knowledge was essential as we helped develop management plans, design projects, develop solutions to problems, and strategies.

The worst part for me was working with the complex, time-consuming, political and crazy Forest Service

budget process(s).

**TR: Did you want to be a Forest Supervisor from early on?**

**JS:** I started thinking I would like to be a Forest Supervisor while serving as a forest staff officer on the Wenatchee NF in the early 1980s.

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*On Pikes Peak, Barr Trail Maintenance project in 1961.*

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**TR: What was the most rewarding parts of your career?**

**JS:** The most rewarding part of my career was working with other FS employees to get things done and having the opportunity to serve in an organization that has a great cause and purpose. Sometimes our procedures and policies were difficult and very frustrating. But, why our country has National Forests and National Grasslands and why we have a "Forest Service" with a great mission is a cause worthwhile. I feel honored and proud of spending 42 years helping further the cause and being a part of history. And I am proud of having worked my tail off the whole time. It was worth it!

**TR: You played a critical role in the Catamount Ski area proposal. Tell us about that.**

**JS:** What I remember most was 50%. If you listened to the locals about 50% favored having another ski area in the Steamboat Springs area because of the job and economic benefits. The 50% against were concerned about the unpleasant disruption and cultural change that would come with a large new development. If you looked regionally or broader the breakdown and reasons given were about the same.

I felt it was important to personally read all 1,800 plus comments to the Draft EIS. For over a year almost all the editorials in the Steamboat Pilot were addressed to me regarding our Catamount EIS and the decision we were about to make. Emotions were high. I knew how important it was to make sure people knew we heard and understood their concerns no matter what our decision was to be.

A few opponents to our decision complimented us for our openness and honest consideration of their perspectives. Seemed like more people knew about and better understood what we do and that helped us with other issues and controversies. For those of us involved with this tedious, complicated, expensive, and

controversial process we knew we had been to hell and back and we probably gained personal and professional strength from the whole experience. Things like this are not always clear for a while.

**TR: What are you doing now?**

**JS:** Jeanetta and I live on a horse property straddling the Laramie River adjacent to the City of Laramie. Jeanetta is an Antique Dealer and has a good-sized store in downtown Laramie. I help clean things and carry things in and out – all the heavy lifting. She runs the business and has employees to help her.

I am a Rotarian and both Jeanetta and I are involved with volunteer work, committees and boards in our downtown and throughout the community.

I still run for fitness and pleasure however, my distances are short 2-4 miles. I savor the days back in the 1970s and 80s when I ran over a dozen marathons including the Boston Marathon in 1979.

I am a crazed sports-fan (football, track, basketball, wrestling etc.) at UW.

**TR: Any last words?**

**JS:** I will always be grateful for what I have experienced in life and in the Forest Service including time with wonderful hard-working people who strive to always do the right things. I appreciate the challenges, the personal growth and fun I have had. Even though most of us took our roles and responsibilities seriously we couldn't help but find humor wherever we were and we laughed. I cherish being a part of our Forest Service's history and helping diversify its culture to become stronger and more relevant. The Forest Service is not perfect but I feel pretty warm and fuzzy about how it best exemplifies what we, as Americans, want from our government service and what we feel is a good buy with our tax dollars. ■



*Jeanettea and Jerry in front of Jeanetta's antique store, Laramie, Wyoming.*

## The Last Ranger in Fraser

*by Bob Joslin*

In 1971, I was in my fourth year as a Range Conservationist on the Tongue Ranger District, Big Horn National Forest in Sheridan, Wyoming. Our timber program was big so I had all resources except timber and recreation. What a great job and in a great location, with a great group of people, we were located in the Forest Supervisor's office.



**Bob Joslin, 2nd from R, back row with Forest Service summer crew, 1972.**

One Friday afternoon, District Ranger Fred Fichtner told me to go see Forest Supervisor Bob Ridings. I went to Bob's office and he informed me that I was going to be the District Ranger on the Fraser Ranger District, Arapaho National Forest, in Winter Park, Colorado. I was somewhat taken aback by that as I didn't know much about ski areas and I knew that was a big thing on the district along with the Fraser Experimental Forest, the Moffat Tunnel and a bunch of Denver Water Board facilities. If you remember back in those days you had two choices, take the job or quit, unless you had a really good reason not to accept.

Walt Werner was moving from Winter Park to be the District Ranger in Idaho Springs.

My reporting date was in late September, which caused Lorna and me some problems. Our oldest son was going into third grade and our daughter was starting kindergarten. School was to start before my reporting date. We talked it over and decided that it would be best if they started the school year in Fraser so off we went to make arrangements for them until I was able to get there. We made a deal at The High Country Inn, which was a fairly new facility on the east side of the highway across from the big ski area. They stayed there until I arrived in late September and we moved into a Forest Service house at the District headquarters.

Don Biddison was the Arapaho National Forest Supervisor located in Golden. I talked to him a few times before and after arriving as District Ranger. Early that winter they held a Ranger/Staff meeting in Golden. That was my first visit face to face with Don and I learned what my marching orders were. I learned a bunch in that meeting that I was not aware of, and came away somewhat deflated. Don told me that the Arapaho S.O. would be closed and much of the Forest would be administered with the Roosevelt N.F. in Fort Collins. Also, that the Fraser Ranger District, headquartered in Winter Park would be eliminated and combined with the Sulphur Ranger District. My job was to talk to the community leaders in Winter Park and Fraser and convince them that this would be an ok deal. I was to let him know when I got that done so it could be announced.

I met with several of the key people and got an ok from them, if a gentleman named Richard R. Mulligan, who was in charge of all the Denver Water Board facilities on the west slope, was ok with it. I visited with him several times and each time he was non-committal about the idea.

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One day he called me up and wanted me to go on an overnight trip with him to look at some of their facilities. He said the only thing I would need were some rubber boots. He picked me up the next day after lunch and away we went to the outlet of the Williams Fork diversion tunnel on St. Louis Creek.

We unloaded two Cushman scooters, packed some stuff on them, put on our rain suits and into the tunnel we went. It seemed like it took forever in that dark, damp tunnel but soon we came out on the Williams Fork and went up to the cabin they had there. We talked about the District closing proposal and I told him the positives about it as well as the negatives. We had a steak and baked potato plus some adult beverage during this discussion and finally finished talking about 1:00 a.m.

As we were shutting down, he said he would give me his answer in the morning. While eating breakfast the next morning, he said he would not say one thing against the proposal, if the Forest Supervisor would send him a personal letter. In that letter the Supervisor would agree to have a Forest Service representative come to Winter Park once a month and use his office to consult with the local people.

When we returned from the trip, I called Supervisor Biddison and passed the info to him. He agreed to write the letter and three days later I personally delivered that letter to Dick and told him this move would be announced in a couple of days, which it was. I thanked Dick and he thanked me for being straight-up with him.

I have no idea what the Forest Service does there now. The Ranger Station is gone and land traded away. It is a whole different world over there. Well, that's my story and I'm sticking to it. I could go on and on about everything else that happened there during our short stay but I'm sure this is enough for one go-round.

Thanks for listening.

Bob Joslin  
Fraser District Ranger  
Fall 1971 - Summer 1972

*Following Bob's time in Fraser he served as District Ranger in Kremmling, CO and went on to have a long and distinguished career with the Forest Service, eventually serving as the agency's Deputy Chief. He currently lives in Lander, Wyoming.*

## Rock(er) On!



In years back, we had "rockers" with the NF name (eg. Pike National Forest) that went over a USFS type shield that was worn on the left shoulder of the shirt or coat. I would like to obtain rockers for the Mt. Hood National Forest, the San Juan National Forest, and the Regional Office - R2. I will put these in a shadow box of mementos from my career. I have some Pike and Roosevelt rockers if others are looking for these.

Denny Lynch - 970-663-2369, 316 East County Road 30,  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

# Thirty Honored at Memorial Grove

*May 7, 2016*

The tradition continues. Since 1920 people have gathered each year to honor individuals who have passed away and were associated with the Rocky Mountain Region. On May 7, 2016 on a chilly and wet morning, more than a hundred and ten people attended this year's ceremony where thirty honorees were recognized. The families of many of these honorees were on hand to share thoughts and memories of their loved ones.

Both Erin Connelly, Forest and Grassland Supervisor on the PSICC, and Jacque Buchanan, Deputy Regional Forester, offered their welcome to the gathering in the meadow next to the grove of spruce trees that has grown since the first

planting in 1920. With this year's additions over 1100 names can now be found on the brass plates that are attached to the six metal tree stump sculptures surrounding the flag poles.

Jane Leche sang a couple of beautiful arrangements and the sound of bag pipes echoed through the grove as the horse carried the engraved plaques on their last ride. The honorees names were read with a pause and opportunity to have special memories and thoughts shared about each individual. After the playing of taps and the planting of this year's memorial tree, a chili lunch was served by employees of the Pikes Peak District.

## 2015 Memorial Grove Honorees

Verdie H. Allies  
Odean M. Borgen  
Frederick E. (Fred) Buhr  
Charles S. (Chuck) Calkins  
Clyde Duren Jr.  
Helen M. Estep  
Lisa Ann Fisher  
Gladys Marie Dilley  
Robert Gibbs (Bob) Gnam  
Rosye (Maxine) Humrich  
James Robert (Zeke) Hylle  
William O. (Bill) Kinney  
Clinton D. (Clint) Kyhl  
Eldon (Leon) Macy  
George Norman Mandeville  
Betty LaRue Matthews  
Mary June Peterson Miller  
Jay W. (John) Pryor Jr  
John T. (Tom) Quinn  
David John (Dave) Ruhl  
Patricia C. Smith  
Nancy Stephens  
Frederic B. (Fred) Stillman  
Craig K. Sullivan  
Benicio M. Trujillo  
Karl F. Zeller

Rio Grande N.F.  
Black Hills N.F.  
Regional Office  
San Juan , White River, Med. Bow, Shoshone N.F.s  
White River N.F., Regional Office  
Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F.s  
Regional Office, Asst. Director Job Corps, R-5, R-6  
Rio Grande N.F.  
Regional Office, Mineral Examiner  
Regional Office  
Black Hills N.F.  
PSICC N.F., Regional Office  
PSICC, Routt, White Rv., Neb., Med. Bow N.F.s, R-6 and R-4  
Rio Grande N.F.  
Bessey Ranger District, Nebraska N.F.  
Bighorn N. F., Tonque R.D.  
Rio Grande N.F.  
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre-Gunnison N.F.s  
Rio Grande N.F., Regional Office, Medicine Bow, R-3, R-4  
Black Hills N.F.  
R.O, AR, R-9, and W.O.  
R.O.  
Bl. Hills, San Juan, Gunnison, Med. Bow, Rio Grande N.F.  
San Juan N.F.  
Rio Grande N.F.  
Shoshone, White River, Arapahoe, and San Juan N.F.

## Not Forgotten

Frank LeBlanc	Rio Grande N.F. (2014)
Richard Alejandrino Martinez	Rio Grande N.F. (2014)
Daniel James "Danny" O'Rourke	Rio Grande and Gunnison N.Fs and R.O. (2014)
Paul M. Stewart	R.O., Medicine Bow, White River, Shoshone, GMUG (2013)

### Rocky Mountain Memorial Grove Committee Representatives:

Steve Deitemeyer [sdeitemeyer@msn.com](mailto:sdeitemeyer@msn.com) or Tom L. Thompson [tommylthompson@comcast.net](mailto:tommylthompson@comcast.net)

A complete listing of all those honored at the Grove can be found on our Rocky Mountain website by clicking the "In Memory" tab.



*Memorial Grove, 2016.*



*Jane Leche sang two beautiful songs.*



*Oscar Martinez, District Ranger for the Pikes Peaks Ranger District, leads the riderless horse around the grove.*



## Remembrances



### Robert Earl (Bob) Houser

**Robert Earl (Bob) Houser** died in Durango, CO on March 3, 2016. He was born July 28, 1929 in Peoria, Illinois to Robert Ernest Houser and Virginia Iola Botorf-Houser. Bob graduated from Chillicothe Illinois Township High School in 1948 and Bradley

University in 1950 with an associate degree in civil engineering. On November 24, 1950 he married his high school sweetheart, Edith "Joanne" Kehlenbach. Bob was an outstanding athlete, enjoying football, basketball, and baseball in high school, and was drafted to play on the Three-I Minor League Hiram Walker Baseball Team in Peoria, Illinois from 1953-55.

In 1956 Bob moved the family to Sierra Madre, California where he worked as a civil engineer for Santa Fe Land Improvement Company and

obtained his land surveyor's license. In 1963 the family moved to Durango, Colorado where Bob worked as a civil engineer/land surveyor on the San Juan N.F. In 1971 Bob was transferred to Pagosa Springs R.D. then to on to the White River N.F. in Glenwood Springs, CO in 1981 where he retired in 1988.

After his retirement, Bob and Joanne returned to their Pagosa Springs home that had been designed and built by Bob and his sons. In 2005 they sold their Pagosa Springs home and moved to Dolores, CO. Bob loved to hunt, fish, hike, ride his horses, and make furniture. Robert "Bob" Earl Houser is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Richard Houser, and is survived by the love of his life for 65 years, Joanne Houser who resides at Four Corners Health Care Center; a daughter Sheryl Kaufman of Durango, CO; and three sons, Steven Houser of Castle Rock, CO Mark Houser of Farmington, NM, and Eric Houser of Highlands Ranch, CO; five grandchildren, six great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.



### Charles Dwight Minnemeyer

**Charles Dwight Minnemeyer**, 70, of Bloomington, Indiana passed away on January 30, 2016 at his residence.

Charles was born September 27, 1945 in Monroe County, the son of the late Hollis and Fern (Chitwood) Minnemeyer.

Charles graduated from Bloomington High School and received a BS in entomology from Purdue University. After serving in the US Army, he completed a MS in entomology from Colorado State University. Charles married Deborah (Clark) Minnemeyer on May 19, 1973. Charles was employed

by the Forest Service as an entomologist until he retired in 1986. His research concentrated on the spruce beetle in the forests of the Rocky Mountains. After moving back to IN, he devoted his time to volunteering in local community events, coaching youth sports, and moonlighting as a civil war historian. He enjoyed restoring baseball mitts, watching horse racing, and swimming.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah Minnemeyer of Bloomington; son Chas Minnemeyer and his wife Jenny of Frankfort, IL; son Grant Minnemeyer and wife Colleen of Spencer; and grandson Miles.

## Remembrances



### Linda Kay Bledsoe

**Linda Kay Bledsoe** of Cedaredge died Feb. 29, 2016. She was 61. Ms. Bledsoe was born in Sterling, CO Feb. 26, 1955 to Bob and Carol Bledsoe. She spent her childhood on the Front Range. She attended high school in Loveland and graduated from Valley High

School in Gilcrest. Merely one year out of high school, Linda embarked on her Forest Service career on the Red Feather/Poudre Ranger District in 1973 as a resource clerk duties and after a few years started working for the Aspen Ranger District, having adventures living in the campground when government housing was not available. She moved to Carbondale to work for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management out of Glenwood Springs working on various management plans. In 1983 she moved to the Regional Office in contracting. In 1992 she moved back out to the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre Gunnison N. F. as a Realty Specialist.

Finally, in 2003 Linda became a Grand Valley Ranger District employee and she became one of the most experienced and knowledgeable Realty Specialists working principally in special uses and easements for water facilities and processed over 400 Ditch Bill applications. Linda's knowledge of Forest

Service history, water law and paralegal training made her a great asset to the region. She partnered with local towns to complete source water protection plans and was instrumental in three reservoir enlargement and rehabilitation projects. She developed good rapport with permit holders and sought after for advice and counsel.

Linda's rapport with permit holders has been a key to successful relationships. Often both Forest service employees and people with vested interests in lands issues called Linda for advice, knowing she was a trusted source of knowledge. There are people who are all the better thanks to Linda for her mentoring and patient teaching. Linda was always willing to take on new challenges, including fire assignments.

Linda enjoyed spending time with family and friends, NASCAR, sports and supporting her three sons and grandchildren in their sporting events. She coached her sons' sports teams and volunteered in the community.

She is survived by her sons, Jason (Heather) Cerise of Montrose, Craig (Amanda) Cerise of Cedaredge and Anthony (Sidney) Cerise of Greeley; and her grandchildren, Isabel, Maya, Blaine, Autumn, Dylan and Colton.



### Wendal G. Van Scyoc

**Wendal G. Van Scyoc**, 82, of Surprise, Arizona went to be with his Lord February 3, 2016.

Wendal was born in Osborne, Kansas July 31, 1933. His parents were Cliff and Vera Ledgerwood Van Scyoc. Wendal grew up in Osborne, graduating from high school in 1951. He was a US Post Office

employee 1951 - 1953 and 1955 - 1957. He served in the US Army 1953 - 1955. Margaret Dugan of Alton, Kansas became his loving wife July 13, 1956. Wendal graduated from Fort Hays Kansas State College with a Bachelor's Degree in 1960.

Wendal had a distinguished career with the US Forest Service from 1961 to 1991. He and his family lived in several Colorado Rocky Mountain towns, including time as the

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Administrative Officer on the Rio Grande, and then on to the Regional Office in Financial Management.

The family was campers, hikers, skiers and enjoyed all outdoor activities. After retirement he became an accomplished Scroll Saw Artist. Wendal and Margaret moved to Surprise, Arizona in 2002. Wendal and Margaret were the parents of three children, Carla, Bruce and Karen. His children loved him for his honesty, faithfulness, work habits, fun adventures and he was an all-around great dad.

Through the years Wendal worked with the Boy Scouts, volunteered at the local food bank and his church. Anytime a friend or neighbor called, he was right there to help. Wendal is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margaret, daughters Carla Boh and Karen (John) Fitzgerald, four grandchildren, Marsha (Wil) Brand, Ashley (Rob) Degg, Willow Fitzgerald and Hill Fitzgerald and three great grandsons, Matt Farris, Mason Degg and Eli Degg.



### **Martin C. (Marty) Everitt**

**Martin Cole (Marty) Everitt** passed away on March 9, 2016. Marty was a geological engineer for the Federal Highway Administration and later for the Region 2 Forest Service Regional Office where he

served as materials and geotechnical engineer from the early 70's until he retired in 1983. After his retirement, he worked for a private engineering company.

He was born in Caldwell, New Jersey on September 11, 1930. His early childhood days were spent in the small town of Port Jervis, New York, where the Neversink River enters the Delaware on the tri-state junction of NY, NJ, and PA. His boyhood home was a beautiful Victorian home built for his great-grandfather, founder of a local bank. In 1941 his family moved to Panama where his father worked on construction in the Canal Zone. Malaria, contracted by Marty and his father, brought that chapter to a close. His junior and senior high school years were spent in Michigan where he graduated from Roseville High School in 1947. He went on to the University of Michigan where he graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1952. Between July 1952 and April 1954 he was a lieutenant in the U. S Army and served in Korea. He returned to the University of Michigan and earned a Master's Degree in Engineering in 1957.

In 1961 he met Mary Burton through mutual University of Michigan friends and they were married on September 22, 1962 in Endwell, New York. In December of 1963 they moved to the brand new home at 6921 Oak Street in Arvada, which remained their home for the 53 ½ years of their marriage (with a 6 year absence for jobs overseas). Daughter Mary Susan was born in February 1966 and Laura in November 1967. The two brought much joy into their lives and they continue to be a comfort and support for Mary.

During his career Marty worked in such diverse places as Pittsburg, PA, Salt Lake City, UT plus many foreign countries, mainly in south Asia, but also Russia, Sudan, and the Marianas, among many others. Marty's professional organizations include the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Transportation Research Board. An avid and nationally recognized target shooter, he was in the National Rifle Association and was a dedicated member of the Colorado Rifle Club for over 50 years and served as Secretary-Treasurer and on the Board for several years.

He was a volunteer at History Colorado and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for many years. In addition to shooting and hunting, Marty loved to travel, read, attend lectures about history and listen to music of the big band era and the Queen City Jazz band.

He is survived by his wife Mary Everitt and daughter Mary Susan and Laura.



## Remembrances



### Willard Charles Rambo

**Willard Charles Rambo** passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at home surrounded by family. He was 90 years old.

Willard was born September 22, 1925, to Charles & Gladys (Young) Rambo in Meridian, Idaho. He

served in the U.S. Navy during WWII from November 1943 - May 1946. He participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf near the Philippines where he survived Kamikaze attacks that missed his ship by as close as 20 feet and multiple close calls from torpedoes and bombs.

Upon his return Willard began working for the King Hill, Idaho Irrigation District where he met a young

teacher named Martha Shirk. They were married December 28, 1950 in Phoenix, AZ.

Willard moved to the San Juan Mountain area of SW Colorado in 1956. He worked from 1956 to 1980 for the U.S. Forest Service and supervised a complex road maintenance program in the San Juan National Forest involving 1000 miles of roads. Willard also fought forest fires in the western states during his career.

Willard is survived by his wife of 65 years, Martha, of Ignacio; sons: Leland (Luann) Rambo of Durango, David Rambo of Farmington, NM, George (Susan) Rambo of Bayfield, and Roger Rambo of Bayfield; Daughter: Gloria Furuya of Ignacio; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.



### Samuel Carl (Sam) Schroeder

**Samuel Carl "Sam" Schroeder**, 66, of Nathrop died April 27, 2016, as a result of injuries sustained in an all-terrain vehicle accident. He was born Feb. 20, 1950, in Wauseon, Ohio, to Edwin and Hazel Schroeder. He graduated from Wauseon

High School with the class of 1968.

He received his Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from Colorado State University in Fort Collins in 1972. Sam married Kathleen "Katie" Twomey Dec. 15, 1979, in Denver.

He worked 36 years for the U.S. Forest Service in Sheridan (Wyoming), Carson (New Mexico),

Arapahoe-Roosevelt, White River and Pike-San Isabel N.F. where he was an officer in fire management, timber sales and management and range management.

Mr. Schroeder was a member of the First Lutheran Church and a volunteer with Chaffee County Fire Protection District. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoying hunting, fishing, camping, off-road adventures and horseback trips. He was talented in carpentry, wood carving and the building of furniture.

He is survived by his wife Katie; daughter, Linnea of Burlington; and son, Mattson (a sergeant in the U.S. Army) of Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



### Harry R. Nickless

**Harry R. Nickless** passed away on May 21, 2016 in Pueblo, CO. Harry was born on October 28, 1938 in Tracy, MN. Harry was retired Timber and Fire Staff on the Pike San Isabel Cimarron Comanche National Forests and Grasslands.

Harry served 30 enjoyable years with the U.S. Forest Service.

Harry is survived by his wife Mavis, his three sons, Ray and Terri with grandchildren, Claire and Jenna; Steve and Barb with grandchildren; Kyle and Amanda; Dave and Cate with grandchildren, Collin and Trevor; and his sister, Rita.

## The Last Word

### The Fabric of the Forest Service

*by Tom L. Thompson*

The following are comments I gave at the Memorial Grove service on May 7th. I share these here as the Last Word because I think the message conveyed is one that most Rocky Mountaineers might want to hear. I know it may lose a bit of its meaning since you are not at the Grove. Imagine yourself sitting there wrapped up in a warm coat with the cold wind coming down off Mt. Herman with your eyes focused on eleven hundred names on brass plates mounted on tree stump sculptures in front of you.

“Last week we had a work day here at this memorial site to do some cleanup, weeding, and general maintenance. The day was a bit chilly and there was an occasional snowflake or two. I took a few minutes during the morning to just walk in the Grove and amongst these rusted symbols of trees with over 1100 names engraved in brass. As I paused, it seemed to me that the individual brass plates for each year in their own way are almost like blocks of an unfinished quilt. Each block with its different names and different generations is part of bigger piece of work. The

people’s names that make up these blocks are the fabric that forms the whole quilt. As we add another block of names today we are just piecing together more of the quilt. And like so many quilts do, it tells a story. With my hands



feeling the names that honor individuals going all the way back to 1909, I could not help but think about the stories, the lives, the experiences, the work, the accomplishments, and the connections. In fact much of the history of the Forest Service and the country lies within the fabric of these names.

Among the names we recognize this year are some of the last remaining of the Greatest Generation. We have an honoree that was on the Bataan death march, on board General McArthur’s ship during the war in the Pacific, on the last planes to leave the Lexington and Saratoga before those aircraft carriers were sunk, on bombing missions in B-24s in Europe, and in the field as a medical technician. Those who served over the course of the last 75 years represent all branches of the service and served their country and helped ensure our freedom. With the Forest Service, our honorees were smokejumpers, firefighters, engineers, foresters, geologists, business managers, clerks, administrative personnel, auditors, radio technicians, range technicians, information specialists, equipment operators, recreation technicians, rangers, forest supervisors, and directors.

Though they were different, their names are placed here together on their piece of the quilt in this quiet place near the “Grove” in the forest, a place to rest and remember.

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The eight women and twenty-two men we honor here today had a passion for what they did and gave much to the outfit. Some moved to a number of different assignments in the outfit and some stayed pretty much in one place or the San Luis Valley

their entire Forest Service time. Some had long lives and a retirement, but some left us way too soon.

The names here do represent the fabric that makes up the Forest Service. They represent a big part of the history of the agency and their work helped shape the Rocky Mountain Region. Many quilts over the years have been made by many hands working together. Like a quilt, it is a comfort to know that they were the fabric that made the outfit what it was.

They did what needed to be done and did it well and we deeply appreciate all that they gave. In a way that is the story to me that is told here today. Many hands, many skills, many personalities, many passionate and caring individuals, many of our friends and co-workers, and most importantly your loved ones who gave us so much that we so dearly appreciate.

We truly are blessed to be able to honor and remember them here together in this place.

I especially want to thank the family members who are here today. You share an important

part of this because of your support over the years of those that we honor. We share in your loss and offer our prayers and thoughts to you as we continue on." ■