



FROM TIME TO TIME

A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

APRIL-SEPT 2024

Volume 15, Issue 2 & 3

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future

2024 LEGENDARY LOCALS

APRIL-JUNE 2024



Iris Scadden



Tom Schrah

Dana Wood



FISH FOOD BANK

Nominate your **Legendary**
Local by visiting the
museum!

Stop by the museum to read their bios!

July-August, 2024
Antonio Valenzuela
Al Frei Family
Rudy Grant



Shirley Wilcoxon

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Phone: 303-288-2590 Website: www.cchistoric.com

Email: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Address: 6505 East 60th Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All submissions are welcome, including obituaries. Send submissions to Debra Bullock
(photos or stories).

SEND TO: cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com, or call 303-288-2590

BOARD MEMBERS

Debra Bullock



Barb McMillan



Sheila Harris



Candy Machuga



WELCOME VISITORS

We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday

from 10 am – 2 pm

Tuesday and Thursday by appointment!

CCHS CHARTER MEMBERS...

Joy Bishop	Gary Drotar	Dustin McIntyre
Hester Bonnell	Reba Drotar	Loretta Petty
Debra Bullock	Samantha Ford	Don Sater
Rene' Bullock	Sean Ford	JoAnn Stevenson
Thelma Cole	Esther Hall	Dick Stevenson
Cindy Comstock	Bob Hutchings	Janet Union
Gary Comstock	Dorothy Hutchings	Norm Union
Kristi Douglas	Gene Leffel	June Younger
Steve Douglas	David Lutter	Troy Younger

History has no boundaries-Come celebrate yours!

10 TRUTHS...

1. Not everything is under your control!
2. Not everyone will like you!
3. Not everyone who was once important to you will remain a significant part of your life!
4. You cannot please everyone!
5. You are not perfect. Perfection is an unattainable standard!
6. Not all problems have immediate solutions!
7. Failure is inevitable. It is a natural part of learning and growth!
8. Happiness is a journey not a final destination!
9. Pain & suffering is part of the human experience!
10. The past cannot be changed, focus on the present and future!



MEMBER PROFILE – Meet Ted Kimmes...

Ted was born in Devils Lake, North Dakota. He attended elementary, junior and senior high school in North Dakota. He attended the University of North Dakota until he started working in his dad's business (Ted's Excavating) from 1955-1959. From 1959 to 1964 he attended the North Dakota Industrial School in Mandan, North Dakota. In 1964, Ted attended the Boy Scouts Institute in New Jersey. He joined the boy scouts in 1947 when he was 12 years old and became a scout master. He lived in Minnesota from 1964-1971

where he was involved with Headwaters Area Council and Indianhead Council for Boy Scouts of America, and then moved to Commerce City, Colorado in 1971.

The Boy Scouts organization was very important to Ted. He started when he was 12 and received all the ranks you could get. He was associated with National Camp School, National Jamboree, National Eagle Association and Tahosa Alumni Association.

Ted owned the Hi-U Motel in Commerce City from 1971-1974. He was the Boy Scout Ranger in Denver from 1974-1976

He was involved with many organizations including JC's, Rotary, Mead Fishing Club, and RMLA, and Boy Scouts of America.

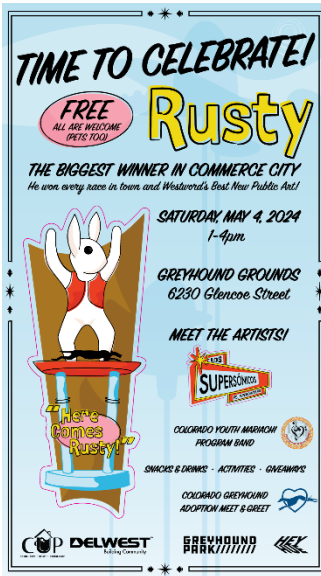
Over the years Ted's employment included working at Allied from 1976-1986. In 1986 Ted became a Locksmith and had several Locksmith businesses including SKL, Keys Plus and EBI, retiring in 2017.

He was married to Lucille Dresch in June 1955 and divorced in 1974. He married Lois Sweet in 1991, and she passed away in 2010.

Ted is very involved with Commerce City to include the Commerce City Historical Society, Boy Scouts of America and many organizations in town.

OUT & ABOUT IN COMMERCE CITY...

May 4, 2024



May 23, 2024



A visit to the Museum from Harvey and Louella Nakagawa. Harvey is the son of Frank Nakagawa, one of Commerce City Founding Fathers. He and his wife live in Las Vegas, and they delivered memorabilia that he had from his father Frank and Commerce City memorabilia.

May 27, 2024



Meet the 2024 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal: Robert Andrew Henry

U.S. Army, 1997-2024

Henry's career began in 1997 when he enlisted in the United States Army. His journey took him from the infantry to the critical role of a combat medic, showcasing a remarkable adaptability and unwavering commitment to his comrades. During his deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, he was recognized with numerous awards, including the Order of Medical Military Merit Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Medic Badge, three Meritorious Service Medals, eight Army Commendation Medals, and five Army Achievement

Medals.

JUNE 26, 2024

The Rocky Mountain Arsenal Celebrates Retiring Program Manager...

Charlie Scharmann is retiring as Army program manager at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) at the end of June.

Scott Greene, an RMA environmental engineer with more than 30 years of technical, program management and staff supervisory experience, will serve as acting program manager until a full-time leader is hired.

Scharmann began his service to the RMA program while with the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. After transferring to Colorado, he became the RMA program manager in 2000 and assumed leadership of the \$2.1 billion environmental remediation program. In this role, he ensured environmental cleanup goals were met and built a nationally recognized safety program and performance record. "It's been a privilege to partner with the community, RMA and Refuge staff, and regulatory agencies to fulfill the vision for this site," he said. "I'm proud of what we have accomplished together and of the natural space we have created for the community to enjoy."



Greene joined the RMA program in 2018, after working on some of the largest and most successful environmental cleanup programs in the country. During his tenure at RMA, he led the interagency water

team technical working group, served as the RMA Committee coordinator, and coordinated the 2020 Five-Year Review development and community outreach process with the regulatory agencies. 669 million gallons of groundwater treated in Fiscal Year 2023 5,189 days without a safety incident resulting in lost time QUICK FACTS 52 off-post groundwater monitoring wells sampled in Fiscal Year 2023 operated an air monitoring program to ensure on-site activities posed no air pollution risks to the surrounding community.

The data showed that air quality at RMA was consistently better than in the greater Denver metro area. Workers take readings at the former RMA air monitoring station.

August 8, 2024

WOODSPRING SUITES GRAND OPENING



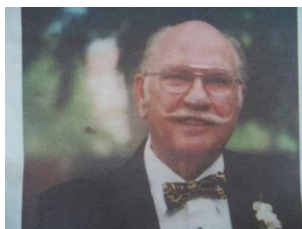
COMMERCE CITY MAYORS 1952 to present

Al Krogh
1952-1965



Eli Koff

Ivan Jergensen
1965-1966



Harold Kite

Leroy Fields
1966-1968



Allen Williams

1968-1970



**Harold Kite
1978-1987**

1970-1975



**David R.D. Busby
1987-1999**

1975-1978



**E.E. Casey Hayes
1999-2003**



**Sean L. Ford
2003-2007**



**Paul Natale
2007-2011**



**Sean L. Ford
2011-2019**



Ben Huseman 2019-2023



Steve Douglas 2023-Current



HISTORIC PHOTOS OF COMMERCE CITY...



US Army Gate Arsenal



Mountain Man Steak House



Egli Home at the Refuge



Arsenal Family Moving-1942



Rocky Mountain Speedway-96th

**Gossip dies when it
hits a wise person's
ears.**

**Rumors are started
by haters,
carried by fools,
and believed by
idiots.**

CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES Harlow Leeper, Owner 7290 Magnolia Street	Commerce City Chamber of Commerce 
Hi-Lo Employees Corporation 	STATE FARM INSURANCE   Eddie Olivas
ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION  Adams 14 Education Foundation Lori Young	

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS:

Rick & Raita Jergensen
Barb McMillan
Rene' & Debra Bullock
Craig & Candy Machuga
Kris & Dana Zerr
Rick & Patti Teter
Norm Union
Marilyn Krause
Adams County Genealogical Society
Cynthia Johnson

NEW MEMBERS:

Rudy Grant & Sheila Gacetta
Roger Bonnel
David Baker
Terry Bond
Marjorie Fjone
KathieAnn Hepp
Rocky Hoery
Nora Kiser
Carey Lube Jr.
John McQuoid
Bill Bromley Family



APRIL-JUNE 2024

Carolyn Kerls
Marilyn Teto
Rick & Raita Jergensen
Mary Krenzer
Ken & Maria Koger
Loretta Petty
Hi-Lo
Robyn Smith
Harry & Marj Buschman
Richard Hage
Jerry Johnson
Cara Hubbel
Jason & Maria Carabajal
Tom Schrah
Addams 14 Education Foundation
Rick & Patti Teter
Linda Andolsek
Jim Deden
Dami Bullock

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

Teresa Muniz
Darlene Muniz
Heather LaCrue
Vangi Rountree
Claudia Barnes
Ken & Carol Kenworthy
Jim Kinghorn
Crestline Muhr Family
Ted Kimmes
Trudy Smith
Laura Wells
Shelly Lewis
Bob Gehler
Dolores Harr
Donna Jamison
Bonnie Campbell
Sandra Elliott & Families
Paula Corbin
Dave Chambers
Cynthia Johnson
Eddie Olivas
Ann Emerson & Julie Hohn

COMMERCE CITY CITY MANAGERS 1975-PRESENT

1. George Felsch	Jan 1975-April 1975
2. Robert Oshima, Acting	April 1975-August 1975
3. James Heck	August 1975-Dec 1977
4. Don Wilson, Acting	Dec 1977-March 1978
5. A. Fred Timmerman	Mar 1978-Nov 1980
6. Don Wilson, Acting	Nov 1980-Mar 1981
7. John Bramble	Apr 1981-Apr 1984
8. Don Wilson, Acting	Apr 1984-Sept 1984
9. Phil Speight	Sept 1984-Aug 1988
10. Don Wilson, Acting	Aug 1988-July 1989
11. Steven Crowell, Jr.	July 1989-April 1994
12. Don Wilson, Acting	April 1994-May 1994
13. Jim Sanderson, Acting	May 1994-Oct 1994
14. Tim Gagen	Oct 1994-June 2000
15. Trish Layton, Acting	June 2000-Mar 2001
16. Perry VanDeventer	Apr 2001-Aug 2006
17. Gregg Clements, Acting	Aug 2006-June 2007
18. Jerry Flannery	July 2007-Nov 2011
19. Brian McBroom, Acting	Nov 2011-April 2012
20. Brian McBroom	April 2012-July 2020
21. Roger Tinklenberg, Acting	July 6, 2020-May 2021
22. Roger Tinklenberg	May 2021-Sept 2022
22. Jason Rogers, Acting	Sept 2022-Nov 2022
24. Jason Rogers	Nov 2022-Current



Rogers joined Commerce City in December 2019 as the city's director of community development and was promoted to deputy city manager in May 2021. Before his time with Commerce City, Rogers spent three years with the Town of Parker, Colorado, where he served as director of the Parker Authority for Reinvestment and deputy community development director. He previously served as the planning division manager for the City of San Jose, California, and a city planner for the city of Henderson, Nevada. Jason Rogers was hired as the city manager in November 2022.

MEMBER & SPECIAL FRIENDS OBITUARIES...

Sumi Akiyama

OCTOBER 18, 1932 – APRIL 10, 2024



Sumi Akiyama was born on October 18, 1932, in Huaral, Peru, South America. She grew up in Peru on a banana plantation until she and her family were taken to an internment camp in Crystal City, Texas in 1944 during World War II. They remained there until 1946. At the end of the war, she and her family moved to Seabrook Farm, New Jersey, and worked at the farm until moving to Denver, Colorado in 1948. There she met and married Yosh Akiyama on October 30, 1952.

Sumi was a consummate perfectionist, it didn't matter if it was making drapes, cooking, making manju, bunko, embroidery, doll making, cigarette wrapper umbrella, everything was perfect. She had a great knack of putting stuff together and making it into a great appetizer, meal, canned goods and being a great teacher. There wasn't anything that she tried to do that she was not great at.

Sumi has a passion for fishing, bowling, gambling, matsutake hunting, many types of sewing, crocheting, knitting, beading and traveling. She was superstitious, when she went gambling, she would wear her lucky red socks and frogs galore.

Sumi is preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Yosh Akiyama. She is survived by five children: Sharon (Mitch), Linda (Mel), Cindy (Gary), Glenn (Linda) and Dave (Teresa); five grandchildren: Summer (Tim), Craig (Kayla), Nicole (Tony), Michelle (Evan), Justin (Breeanna); seven great-grandchildren: Abby, Emma, Min, Rafe, Sophia, Penelope, Lily and one due in September.

Orval Lewis

April 27, 2024



Mark Anthony Martinez

SEPTEMBER 28, 1969 – APRIL 17, 2024

Mark Anthony Martinez born Sep 28, 1969, went to eternal rest Apr 17, 2024, where he died at his home in Commerce City, Colorado, from ongoing health issues at the age of 54. Mark was born in Boulder, Colorado, the youngest of nine siblings who grew up and was raised in CC. Mark attended Monaco Elementary, Adams City Middle School, and graduated in 1988 from Adams City High School. Mark received a full football scholarship to Montana University, which was short lived, when he blew out his knee early in the season and had to return to Colorado. He attended Metro State University while living at his family home. Mark was interested in law enforcement, so he decided to enter the Cadet Program to become a Denver police officer. As a Cadet in training, he did ride a long and was involved as an observer, but discovered this was not the line of work he wanted to do. Mark's first marriage produced two children, and he had Maria Elena when he was 23, and Isaac Martinez, followed the year after. After Mark lost his sister Laurie, who he was very close with, he helped raise her children after her death and became a father figure to Vicky and Rosie. Shortly, thereafter, Mark found his high school sweetheart, Michelle Medina. They dated for a short while and found themselves in love again, and very happy. To their amazement they had a son together, Nicholas, now 16 (he was their miracle baby). So, Mark's small family grew from three to five. Mark had enough love to give to his family, and because he was a young father himself, his children and nieces grew up together experiencing all the summer and winter activities that a child could want or dream of. Mark and Michelle wanted to make their union official in a private ceremony in the mountains (Mark's favorite place), so they married on Aug 7, 2016.



Mark was not only a father to his children, but he was also a "Coach and Mentor" to many Commerce City youth in the football, and baseball programs for over eight years. He was respected not only by his players, but the parents trusted and respected him for the example of good sportsmanship he taught their kids. Every player was made to feel like a member of the team, with a lot of team spirit!

Mark worked for many companies, Aristocrat Cabinets, Commerce City Parks and Recreation, American Furniture, Acme, and he ended his working career with Home Depot. He especially enjoyed his job with the Commerce City Parks and Recreation. His responsibilities included readying the baseball fields for games for that day, and maintaining the manicured lawns at the parks, which he took a lot of pride in.

Mark was a die-hard sports fan of the Denver Broncos, Nuggets, and his favorite team was the Colorado Avalanche. (Individuals attending the services are asked to show their team spirit, by wearing their favorite sports jersey!)

As a lover of the great-outdoors, Mark enjoyed camping out, fishing, and turning into a "True Mountain Man," gear and all!

Mark enjoyed listening to various types of music, but his most listened to music were the country songs that could bring you to tears. His favorite performer was George Straight, who he was able to see in concert last year! That was a real treat for Mark!

If Mark heard music he was singing along or dancing, he did not care where he was. One of his distinctive attributes was dancing to all types of music, and he had the moves to back it up! You might say, "he was a darn good dancer with smooth moves," that drew you in to watch him as if he was a performer. Old age did not slow him down, but he risked throwing out some part of his body, and his once smooth moves became slow and a little jerky. But he was still a joy to watch, because he was having fun, and he still had that huge smile!

His work with the Parks department allowed him to maintain the grounds as if it were his own lawn. In the end, Mark had seeded a large patch of dirt in front of his house, and literally watched the grass grow as he sat in his favorite chair with a can of beer, watering and cutting his grass.

Mark had the biggest heart and wanted to help everyone in need. He believed in the good Lord, and prayed his rosary just like his mom taught him--bless her heart and soul.

Mark enjoyed playing the Colorado lottery and had especially good luck on the scratch tickets. He liked going to Blackhawk, but his luck did not follow him to the hill, and he landed up donating most of the time.

Mark will be missed by all who loved him and called him a friend. He is survived by his wife Michelle Medina, sons Nicholas, Isaac, and daughter Maria Elena Martinez. Coming from such a large family he experienced three losses, which affected him greatly and sent him into a downward spiral of depression, which he really never recovered from. Mark is proceeded in death by his parents, Richard Sr., and Genevieve Martinez, and his sister Laurie Martinez. He is survived by sisters, Monica (Zubia), Debbie (Melton), Ruth (Wuis); and brothers Richard Jr., Eddie, Anthony, and Vincent. He is also survived by many brothers and sister-in-law's, nieces, nephews, and extended family on both sides, and many friends.

Paul Reffel

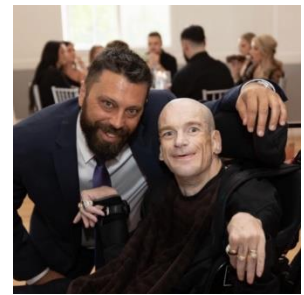
October 18, 1955 – April 6, 2024



Our condolences to two lifelong families in Commerce City. May their sons rest in peace.

Beloved son of Gary and Diane LaPenna

Tony LaPenna-February 12, 1976-September 11, 2024



Beloved son of Ron and Debbie LaPenna

Todd LaPenna-January 24, 1977-June 13, 2024



Kraig Stephen Gerlock

January 15, 1950 - July 7, 2024



Kraig Stephen Gerlock was born to David and Ethel Gerlock during the early winter of 1950. He was a delightful baby with shocking red hair just like his sisters and Grandpa Gerlock! From the moment he was born, he was a bundle of entertainment! Extremely intelligent, witty- full of humor and so resourceful. He was the 4th of what was to be 8 children living in Commerce City, Colorado, just one block from what is now the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. His love of animals was inspired by all of the creatures that were in the area – many of which wandered into his backyard.

Very tragically, Kraig contracted polio at the age of three and he was left with his left arm and hand paralyzed, which was his dominant arm and hand. The aftermath was complete with much pain and operations, which greatly affected the rest of his life. However, he was not one to let the world pass him by!

Despite his disability, he managed to master the piano, the guitar, bowling, shooting pool, restoring to perfection old and ancient guitars as well as become an avid fisherman and hunter. Kraig had an amazing voice and penchant for music and could entertain with his voice and guitar or piano for hours at a time. He could tell stories that could make you fall on the floor laughing! He always had a twinkle in his eye – so you never knew what was true or false!



Kraig could fix or analyze any problem – mechanical or otherwise, which led him to be the plant manager of Scott's Liquid Gold and was an expert in the manufacture of plastics. It was downright amazing the things he could accomplish.

Kraig was a true character of the “Wild West”, people used to say he was born in the wrong century, an “old soul”. He was astoundingly funny; even on his deathbed, he was hilarious. He had a brilliant scientific mind that absorbed information like a sponge – a memory better than an elephant. He was an avid history buff and knew details about thousands of subjects -- all correct -- if you challenged him and looked them up. He memorized great portions of the whole Bible and was able to quote it verbatim. Kraig loved God, and constantly sought Him. He would study and send whole “sermonettes” and scriptures to encourage family and friends, of which there were many.

He saw himself as an old cowboy. To that end, he requested to be buried with his buckskins on, with a cowboy pillow in an old-timey “toe-pincher” wooden cowboy coffin, lovingly made by his son, Nathan. He also requested his services be held in the church he grew up in – Our Savior Lutheran Church, with hymns he most loved.

He did wrestle with God about his afflictions and disabilities that tormented him his whole life – so much so that he would sometimes make bad decisions; but ALWAYS ended up praising God and talking about “The Good Shepherd”.

Kraig was a true adventurer and traveler, and his last great adventure was to be flown by Flight for Life from his home in Nebraska to Loveland, Colorado Anshutz Hospital. He was fully conscious and relayed the entire experience, detail by detail, to his brother-in-law, Gary, who was a Flight for Life Pilot for 33 years. He had always wanted to fly in a helicopter.

As God planned, the last two weeks of his life brought him healing comfort of mind and soul. He was tended to by the most gentle, knowledgeable, caring, thoughtful and focused nursing team at the hospital that he was in, along with the tender care of his sons Nathan and Chad. The nurses cried at his passing saying how fond they were of him because of his humor and kindness to them. He passed away peacefully, just slipping into eternity with “The Good Shepherd” – and his precious family surrounding him.

Surviving Kraig are his children, Nathan Gerlock (Whitney), Chadwick Gerlock, DeDe Norris (Jerry); his grandchildren Danielle Gerlock, Ashlyn Gerlock, Madison Gerlock, Abigail Gerlock, Jonathon Gerlock, Michael Gerlock, Xavier Bourgeois, Adam Overman; brothers and sisters, David H. Gerlock, Arnold and Karen (O’Dell) Gerlock, Roger and Cindy Gerlock, Reba and Gary Drotar, Karen Barringer-Brooks, Brother-in-Law F. Alan “Bo” Barrett; cousins; and many, many nephews and nieces, as well as a plethora of friends.

Kraig is preceded in death by his grandfathers and grandmothers, David and Amolia Gerlach and Newton Anderson and Maldia Cypert; his father and mother, David and Ethel Gerlock and sisters Janet Lee Stevenson and Leah Barrett; his nephew Daniel Kevin Gerlock and Sister-in-Law, Beverly Lucas Gerlock.



Charlene Kittinger

April 1933 - July 17, 2024

Charlene was born in April 1933 in the Barr Lake area to Roland and Mildred Nelson. She had two older brothers. She lived in Barr Lake, Colorado. Her father worked for Union Pacific Railroad. He built their house from two railroad box cars. He took windows out of an old car and put them in our house. I remember, on a hot day, rolling the windows down to cool off. Times were hard and he used what he could to make us comfortable.

They moved to Dupont, Colorado in 1943. Dupont was named after the Dupont de Nemours family and the Dupont Company which stored explosives in the area. They lived on Brighton Road which was the main highway from Denver to Cheyenne.



She went to 5th grade at Adams City Elementary School. I went there until I graduated from the 8th grade. This is where she met her best friend, Ruth Mock.

She went to Adams City High School and her class was the last freshman class. During that year, a junior high school was built. So, when she became a sophomore the freshman class went to the new Junior High School. We were the under-class again and we were disappointed that we could not initiate the freshman class. She graduated from high school in 1951. Her first job was at Webb's Café, which was next door to her house. She washed dishes and babysat for the owner's grandchildren.

She met her future husband, John Kittinger, when she was 16 years old. They got married in February 1952. They were married for 46 years. They had a son, Randy in 1954 and a daughter, Kathy in 1956.

Her husband owned a black powder gun shop called Kittinger's Gunworks. It was located at 82nd Avenue and Brighton Road. After the children grew up, she went to work for the Dupont Post Office.

Some of the businesses she remembers in Dupont were:

- Peterson Grocery
- Ralston's Station
- Webb's Café
- Boob's Creamery
- Friendly Tavern
- Post Office

Mrs. Crawford owned some cabins across the street. She also operated a little store. Her mother didn't allow us kids to go in the store. She said Mrs. Crawford was a fortune teller. There was a race car track and an airport in Dupont also. It was called Adams City Airport. Mainly small planes and crop dusters used it. It was located around 80th and Brighton Blvd. Early one morning she heard a crash and then the electricity went out. She looked out the window and saw a plane in the field across the street. It had taken off from the airport, hit some power lines and crashed. Luckily the pilot wasn't injured. Charlene was retired and has two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

George Dennis Sprattler

January 21, 1941 ~ August 16, 2024



George Dennis Sprattler, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on August 16, 2024, after a valiant battle with cancer. He was 83 years old.

George was born on January 21, 1941, in Fargo, ND, to the parents of Arthur & Helen Sprattler (Schlick). He was the third of six children. From a young age, he was always fascinated with all things electronic. He loved to take things apart & figure out what made them tick. He was always years ahead of his time.

After graduating High School, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he was an airplane mechanic. After leaving the service he moved to Colorado and has called it home ever since. Shortly after moving to Colorado, he met the love of his life in 1972. After a whirl-wind courtship, they were married and have four children.

George worked as a machinist for over 30 years. He was a big believer in working hard and keeping your word. He taught his kids to always strive to be better, to be honest and to love whole-heartedly above all else. He had a love for planes, trains, books, science fiction and the outdoors.

George is survived by his wife of 52 years, Pam Sprattler; his daughter Lucretia; his son Glen; his daughter Angel (James); seven grandchildren; Pamela, Victoria, Christopher (Heidi), Dennis, Dannette, Draven (Anna) and Drake; fifteen great-grandchildren.

George is preceded in death by his father Arthur, mother Helen, brother Paul, sister Jan and his daughter Jo Anne.

George was always the quiet, gentle giant who was the voice of reason for everyone. Always had a mischievous smile so you knew he was up to no good. His life was marked by his unwavering love and commitment to his family, friends, and passions. His legacy will live on through the memories he created and the love he shared. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

DIANE MUNIZ

FEBRUARY 6, 1956 - August 24th, 2024

Diane Martha Muniz, 68, of Thornton, Colorado, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Saturday, August 24, 2024. Diane was born in Denver on February 6, 1956, to Antonio and Teresa Muniz. She attended kindergarten and 1st grade in Brighton and then went to Rose Hill Elementary, Kearney Junior High and Adams City High School in School District 14 in Commerce City. She graduated from Adams City High School in 1974. She attended CU Boulder then transferred to Metropolitan State College where she graduated with her bachelor's degree in education. She later received her master's degree from CU Boulder. Diane worked for Adams County School District 14 for more than 20 years, first as a teacher's aide and then as a long-time bilingual teacher



at Hanson Elementary School where she taught kindergarten through second grade. Diane gave her heart to the Lord in 1982 and was baptized at Westminster Assembly of God in 1983. She went on a church mission trip to Jackson, Mississippi, where she helped distribute food and clothing to those in need. She also participated in summer teaching programs in Oaxaca, Mexico, and in southwest Colorado. Diane was a generous person, always giving to others. She was like a second mom to her nephews and niece. She will be greatly missed by her parents, Antonio and Teresa Muniz of Commerce City; sisters Darlene Muniz of Thornton and June (Muniz) Younger of Commerce City; brother-in-law Troy Younger of Commerce City; nephews Stephen Younger of Thornton and Joshua Younger of Commerce City; niece Amy Younger of Commerce City; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She is preceded in death by both sets of grandparents – Donaciano and Rose Flores and Pastor Herculano and Abelina (Sanchez) Muniz.

Agnes R Rodlin

June 22nd, 1926 - September 14th, 2024



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Agnes Rodlin, she was 98 years old. She passed away peacefully on September 14, 2024. Agnes was born on June 22, 1926, in Nome, North Dakota to Hjalmar and Ida Kopperud. She had 9 siblings, 4 sisters and 5 brothers. She grew up on a farm in Nome, a rural area of North Dakota. She would later meet the love of her life Ernest Rodlin. They married on September 4, 1945, in South Dakota and celebrated 55 years together until Ernest's passing in 2000. They started their own family beginning in 1946 when the first of 7 children was born, they had 3 girls and 4 boys. Agnes was a woman of God and was

very active in her church. She was part of the Ladie's Guild, the choir, Sunday School teacher and many other things over the years. Agnes spent many years in the food service industry where she held many jobs bartender, waitress and finally cafeteria worker at the Adams City High School retiring from there after many years. Agnes lived life to its fullest, she showed everyone she knew unconditional love and kindness.

Fondly known as Grandma Rodlin, she was a woman of remarkable spirit and charisma, with a personality that was best described as; funny, caring, talkative, and inquisitive. She never met a stranger, everywhere she went she knew someone. Her laughter was contagious, and her warmth drew people towards her.

Her family was the center of her universe. She loved having family gatherings and insisted on hosting most of them at her home even when the family outgrew the space, we gathered in every inch of the house and sometimes the yard too, but family get togethers made her so happy.

Agnes shared life lessons with an open heart, consistently urging everyone to always find humor in things because to her, laughter was the best medicine. Her conviction was that family is family, a code she lived by, ensuring everyone in her path felt loved and valued. She never turned anyone away. She was a beacon of light and comfort to anyone who met her. Agnes "Grandma Rodlin's" legacy will be a reminder of the impact one woman's love, kindness, and sense of humor can have on the lives of many. Agnes will be missed by so many, yet she leaves behind a trail of joyous memories that will provide comfort during this difficult time.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 8 siblings, her husband Ernest, her daughter Sheila Armour and son in law Jerry Armour, her son Thomas Rodlin, her son in law Randy Keiffer and her Great Granddaughter Aries Rodlin.

She is survived by her youngest brother Robert Kopperud (Lillian) her children Terry Lowe (Don), Curtis Rodlin (Debbie), Randall Rodlin (Donna), Cheryl Keiffer, Robert Rodlin (Tina) daughter in law Stephanie Rodlin, 16 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, 10 great-great grandchildren and 1 great-great-great grandchild

Ronald William Struwe Sr.

1954-2024

Ronald W Struwe was born in Chicago Illinois in 1954 to Robert and Jean Struwe and was the eldest child of five before Cheryl, Linda, Donna, and Vincent. He attended Budlong Elementary and graduated from Amundsen High School and achieved a high rank in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

After meeting his beautiful wife Kathy, Ronald moved to Colorado and raised three amazing kids; Shannon (married to Wesley) Ronald Jr. aka RJ (married to Dawn) and Matthew (Married to Annette). Ronald's children were the world to him, which he showed as a volunteer parent on field trips, a proud dad in the crowd at a kids play or band concert, a Sunday school teacher, and a scout leader.

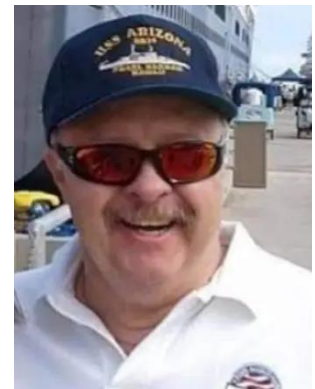
Whether it was boy scouts for his boys, or girl scouts for his daughter, Ron was there to ensure the kids all had fun and were kept safe under his watchful and protective eye. Summer camping trips filled with rafting, archery, whittling, marksmanship, outdoor cooking, and personal safety instruction were numerous and memorable. Ronald loved scouting with his kids and was Awarded "Scout Master of The Year by the Boy Scout Council Of America. He held several positions in the BSA including Assistant Cub Master, Scout Leader, Troop Chaplin, and Scout Master. Helping his own boys along with their friends was his passion.

Ronald loved sports, especially baseball and once his two boys were old enough to play little league he rushed to every game straight from work.

As a devout Catholic, Ronald was a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and served as their Financial Secretary and served Our Lady Mother Of The Church as an Usher for many years.

The biggest joy of Ronald's life was his grandchildren, becoming Papa for the first time in 2002 with Jonathan, followed by Stephani, Kane, and Nicole. Spoiling them became his most enjoyable pass time, sneaking them candy or taking them to museums and zoos whenever the opportunity presented itself.

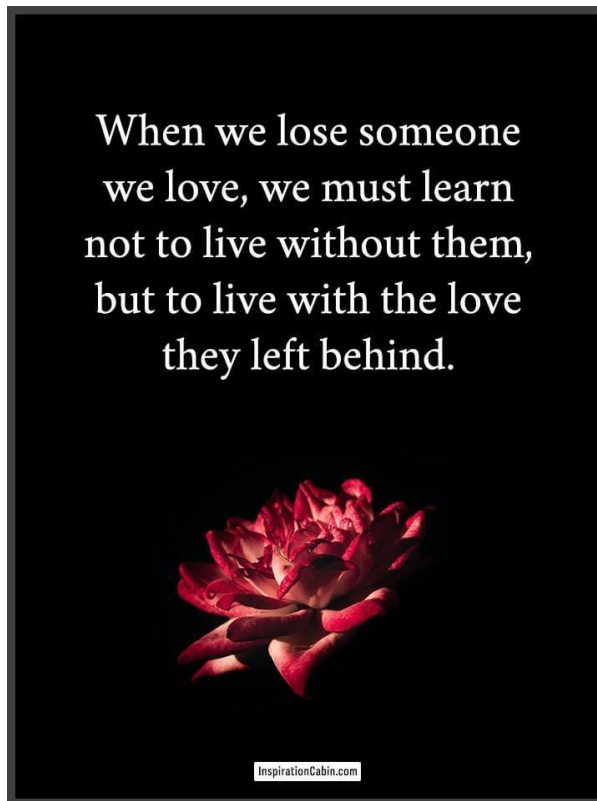
Along with the love Ronald showed his own children, he took several of his children's friends under his wing, loving them and guiding them as well. Several remained in contact with him,



affectionately calling him “Pops” or “Dad” among them Matt Mott, Colleen and John Lennon, and Leroy Gomez. Leroy loved Pops and kept in contact for his “Useless yet useful advice”.

Ronald was never shy or stingy with his time, affection, or guidance. He was always there when anyone he loved needed him, no matter the time, situation, or inconvenience to himself. He was always there no matter what.

Ronald was loved intensely and was such a large part of his family’s lives. He will be forever missed.



WHY JOIN THE COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

- To learn and understand the history of the community in which you live.
- To help preserve the history in the community in which you live for future generations.
- Meet new people.
- Be involved with the community.
- Attend events sponsored by the historical society.
- Get involved in helping the historical society educate people about the history.
- Volunteer opportunities to help preserve your history.
- Gain appreciation for where you live.

Membership Application

Commerce City Historical Society

Application for Membership

	NAME: _____
	Address: _____ _____
	Phone Number: _____ home _____ cell _____
	E-Mail _____
	Business Name _____

Annual Dues

***Please make checks payable to: Commerce City Historical Society,
6505 E. 60th Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022***

Individual	\$20.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$30.00	_____ (per year)
Memorial	\$50.00	_____ (per year)
Business/Corporation	\$100.00	_____ (per year)
Life Membership	\$500.00	_____ (one time)
Senior Lifetime Membership (Age 65 Plus)	\$250.00	_____ (one time)

Are you a Veteran? Yes ___ No ___ What Branch? _____

DATE PAID _____

How would you like to be notified of meetings and the Newsletter?

Email Phone Mail

For questions, please call the museum office 303-288-2590

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Calls _____
Work at the Museum _____

Working at Events _____
Moving Items _____