



# FROM TIME TO TIME

*A Quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society*

Jan-March, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 1

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## Annual Membership Meeting



**On Saturday March 19, 2022, the Annual Membership Meeting for the Commerce City Historical Society was held at the museum.**

We learned about the redistricting process that the city is doing for new Wards in Commerce City. Dylan and Jordan from the city clerk's office presented the information that we need to know to make an informed decision moving forward for Commerce City.

Esther Hall opened the meeting with a board roll call. Debra Bullock presented an overview of the financials for 2021. They voted to keep 3 board members (Pam Meier, Debra Bullock, and Marilyn Godfrey) for a 2-year term. Updates for a by-law amendment was distributed. We discussed the new displays that are being created and more. The next membership meeting is

June 18, 2022.

## December 11, 2021-Membership/Holiday Meeting

We had a great turnout for our last membership meeting of the year. Wishing our members a Merry Christmas and telling stories about how long they lived in Commerce City and how they came to Commerce City was enjoyed by all. Enjoying the Christmas goodies and networking were also enjoyed by everyone. Happy New Year to all of our members as we move into another year of preserving history in Commerce City...Because history matters....



## Adams City High School Yearbooks

We have all the ACHS yearbooks except for the ones listed here;  
**Missing 1991, 1993, 2013, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021- if you have one of these books and would like to donate one, please contact the museum!**

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# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT...

## Sheila Harris



Sheila Harris is a lifetime resident of Commerce City. She was Born in 1968 to Hester and Cecil Bonnell. Sheila has three siblings Lester, Rodger and a twin sister, Shelly. She is married to Sidney Harris.

She attended Monaco Elementary School, followed by Adams City Middle School and finally Adams City High School where she graduated in 1987. Sheila is the proud mother of three great children. Gerrald, known as Jake (32), Donna (30) and Leah who is (19). She also has three grandchildren Sarah (12), Abigail (7) Colton (2).

Sheila has been a school bus driver for 31 years with the first 15 years at Denver Public Schools where she met and married Sidney Harris. For the last 16 years she has been driving for Adams 12 Five Star Schools.

In her spare time, she loves to go camping and fishing. Sheila likes to do pretty much anything outdoors where she can include the children and grandchildren.

Sheila is a board member for the CCHS and serves as the Membership Director. She is instrumental in managing the membership base for the historical society!

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## MUSEUM INFORMATION

**Phone:** 303-288-2590 **Website:** [cchistoric.com](http://cchistoric.com) **Email:** [cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:cchistoricalsociety@yahoo.com)  
[www.cchistoric.com](http://www.cchistoric.com)



## Submissions for Newsletter

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

[cchistoricalsciety@yahoo.com](mailto:cchistoricalsciety@yahoo.com), 303-946-3426

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### FROM TIME-TO-TIME NEWSLETTER

A quarterly Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society, 6505 E. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City, CO 80022

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Esther Hall, President, 303-249-1930

Pam Meier, Vice President, 303-901-7486

Debra Bullock, Secretary/Treasurer, 303-946-3426

Sheila Harris, Membership, 720-939-0582

Marilyn Godfrey, 719-651-5110

## WELCOME VISITORS

**We are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday  
from 10 am – 2 pm**

Thank you for coming, however, please be mindful of the spreading of COVID-19. Please exercise social distancing among others when entering the facility.

## Did you know...

Did you know... Cocklebur, the bronze horse statue that lives in Pioneer Park, is nearly finished undergoing restoration due to vandalism that occurred last year. The Commerce City Cultural Council voted last summer to have the artwork undergo repairs and preservation. The process has been lengthy, but Cocklebur now has a new patina finish, and the vendor is currently preparing specifications for a new concrete pad on which to mount the statue. We should have Cocklebur back in his rightful place soon!



# CCHS Charter Members...

Joy Bishop

Hester Bonnell

Debra Bullock

Rene' Bullock

Thelma Cole

Cindy Comstock

Gary Comstock

Kristi Douglas

Steve Douglas

Gary Drotar

Reba Drotar

Samantha Ford

Sean Ford

Esther Hall

Bob Hutchings

Dorothy Hutchings

Gene Leffel

David Lutter

Dustin McIntyre

Loretta Petty

Don Sater

JoAnn Stevenson

Dick Stevenson

Janet Union

Norm Union

June Younger

Troy Younger

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## Sand Creek Regional Greenway History



The Greenway would not exist without our founding volunteers, who turned the idea of restoring Sand Creek to native habitat and public open space into a reality. Our five founding volunteers (pictured above from left to right, starting with Beth in a white shirt):

Beth Conover, Pat McClearn, Happy Haynes, Rene' Bullock, and Nadine Caldwell



The idea of a regional greenway corridor along Sand Creek to link the High Line Canal in Aurora with the South Platte River Greenway in Commerce City was first described in 1991 in the Emerald Strands Plan.

This multi-jurisdictional planning project consisted of the cities of Aurora, Denver, and Commerce City, as well as Adams and Arapahoe counties.



In 1993, the Stapleton Redevelopment Foundation commissioned a concept plan for the Emerald Strands committee, which described the opportunities for and constraints on a Sand Creek greenway.

In 1994, four of the current partners convened, encouraged by Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO), to begin detailed Grants from GOCO and the US Environmental Protection Agency supported a year-long master planning effort for the Sand Creek Regional Greenway.

In 1997, a community steering committee was formed, comprised of council members from Aurora, Commerce City, and Denver; representatives of neighborhood associations in partner cities; environmental groups; non-profit organizations; and interested individuals. The planning process was supported by a series of community open houses and design workshops where proposed plans were presented, discussed, and refined.

The 30-member steering committee guided the development of the greenway, with Stapleton Development Corporation providing staff support and a meeting place for the committee. In 1997, GOCO designated the Sand Creek Regional Greenway as a Legacy Project and awarded \$1.75 million in funding for land acquisition and trail construction. Two additional supplements from GOCO have brought the commitment to \$3.1 million. Also in 1997, funds were obtained to pay a project coordinator.



In the summer of 1998, a workshop was held to discuss options for an appropriate organizational structure to support the development of the greenway. The workshop brought together key participants in the project and was facilitated by Denver Foundation President & CEO David Miller. The decision was made to form a non-profit organization to manage the development of the greenway as a regional resource and to take lead responsibility for fundraising for the project.



An executive director was hired in May 1999, and organizational development activities began.

In September 2020, a mural featuring the wildlife and riparian habitat of our Sand Creek

Greenway corridor. celebrating the 20th anniversary as a nonprofit. The mural is the first project of the Future Fund—a fund to support efforts to move the Greenway forward and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the nonprofit organization, so we can continue to improve it.

Through the years there have been many volunteers, events, and sponsorships to grow this trail. As of 2021 the trail is 14-mile public trail and natural lands from Aurora, Commerce City, and Denver.

**Note: There are seven separate Sand Creeks in the state of Colorado. The Sand Creek that the Greenway runs along is not the same as the site of the Sand Creek Massacre. The site of the Sand Creek Massacre is 160 miles to the southeast of the Greenway, near the town of Eads. For more information about the Sand Creek Massacre and the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.**



## COMMERCE CITY LEGENDARY LOCALS PROGRAM

**(Nomination forms are available at the museum)**



**Do you know of a Commerce City Legendary Local? We want to know who they are!**

**A Commerce City Legendary Local may be identified by the following...**

Remarkable

Extra Ordinary

Well-Known in Commerce City

Distinctive accomplishments for Commerce City

Leaves an unforgettable impression on others

Has done things to make Commerce City a better place

Made contributions of time and talent to the city

Has profoundly and positively affected the history for Commerce City

Touched lives in Commerce City

Finding your role or calling and following it in Commerce City

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## **HISTORY COLORING BOOK GIVE AWAY!**





## CCHS APPRECIATES OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS...

### MAGNOLIA ENTERPRISES

Harlow Leeper, Owner  
7290 Magnolia Street

### Commerce City Chamber of Commerce



### Hi-Lo Employees Corporation



7887 East 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Commerce City, CO 80022  
303-289-3761

### Mail Xpress LLC



Phil & Wendy Wilson

### STATE FARM INSURANCE



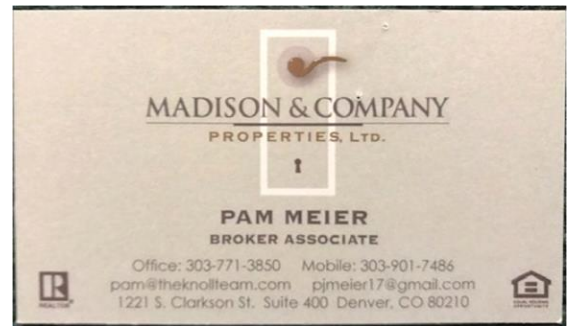
Eddie Olivas



# ADAMS 14 EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Dale Mingilton



**JOIN US FOR OUR BUS TRIP MAY 1, 2022**

**COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Century Casino Bus Trip- Sun May 1**

**WE'RE HEADED TO THE HILLS**



Leaving the museum at 1 PM  
6505 East 60th Avenue

Cost \$10—Contact Esther Hall  
for tickets—303-249-1930  
Leaving Commerce City Museum

**GET \$5 Machine Play \$5 Table Play, AND A \$5 meal  
voucher at the casino**

**CASINO TRIP**

**THANK YOU RENEWING  
MEMBERS**

Bob Hutchings

C.A. Barnick

Marilyn Bruffett

Susan Carabajal

Richard Hage

Carloyn Kerls

James Kinghorn

Barbara McMillan

Charlene Kittinger

Mary Krenzer

Darlene Muniz

Teresa Muniz

Hazel Rogers

Vangie Roundtree

Tom Schrah

Lois Smith

Marilyn Teto

Harry & Margie Buschman

Dave & Kris Chambers

Marilyn Godfrey

Abe & Angela Ramirez

William Shelby Family

Domenick Teto Family



**Eva Colburn**

**Connie McWhirt**

**Rueben McWhirt**

**Linda Bedin**

**Connie Kimbrel**

**Les Schwab**

**Commerce City  
Rotary**



# Member & Special Friends Obituaries...



## **BERTHA YBARRA**

**1932-2022**

Bertha Ybarra December 3rd, 1932 - January 31, 2022, Bertha passed with her children by her side. She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 62 years, Abondio Ybarra. Bertha leaves behind son Reuben Ybarra, daughters Susan Fisher (Rod), and Charlene Barela (Alfonso), 5 grandchildren Kim Wallace (Jamie), Dion Barela, Melissa Barela, Ryan Fisher, Mitchell Barela and 1 great granddaughter Raea Fisher. Bertha was born December 3, 1932, to Manuel and Mary Rodriguez Sr. in Platteville CO. She grew up in Weld County and is one of 12 siblings. She leaves behind brothers Daniel, Pete, Frank, Lee and Robert Rodriguez, sisters Ester Cypher and Mary Louise Garcia. She is preceded in death by siblings Henry, George, Manuel Jr. Rodriguez, and Ysabel Hernandez. Bertha married Abondio Ybarra in 1956 raising their family in Commerce City, Co. where they lived until 2015. She was very attentive, detailed and a strong woman of faith who loved visiting family. She helped people throughout her life, volunteering at Our Lady Mother of the Church Ladies Auxiliary for many years while her husband Abondio was involved in the Knights of Columbus. She became a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary after moving to Thornton and enjoyed attending mass. She worked fulltime at Hilb & Company for 20 years, and eventually retired from the State of Colorado. Bertha was a CU Buffs football season ticket holder for 22 years attending every game with her husband. She also loved cheering for the Denver Broncos, Colorado Rockies and for her grandchildren when they were involved in sports. Rosary was held on Wednesday February 9th, 2022, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial was also at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, on Thursday February 10th, 2022.

## **CHARLES JAMES CROWE – October 26, 1948-January 26, 2022**

Charles (Chuck) James Crowe of Julesburg, Colorado passed away January 26, 2022, at the age of 73. Chuck was born to James and Consuelo Lydia Crowe on October 26, 1948, in Denver, Colorado. One of Chuck's proudest moments was his organization of the Eucharistic Ministry for the 1993 Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day in Denver.

Chuck visited Medugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina numerous times with the Catholic Church. He also conducted prison ministry visits twice a week for 20 years and faithfully attended mass



every day. There's nothing Chuck loved more than his faith and children. Chuck cherished his relationships with his family and friends.

Chuck had many hobbies. He loved cheering on the Denver Broncos, Notre Dame, and the Colorado Rockies. He enjoyed restoring classic cars, fishing, collecting coins, making his famous sourdough bread, riding motorcycles, and traveling. Chuck had many friends over the years, from all the different churches he had been involved in around Colorado and New York.

He even met with a group of high school friends once a month. He was blessed with four amazing children: Robert, CJ, Mirjana, and Mariah whom he loved very much. If he wasn't on memory filled fishing trips with his twins, he was talking about classic cars and restores with his boys.

Chuck is survived by his children: Robert Crowe, CJ (Wendy) Crowe, Mirjana (Travis) Brown, Mariah Crowe; Grandchildren: Cody Crowe, Jacob Crowe, Kellie Crowe and Annette Brown; Great Grandchildren: Angel Perez and Zoey Wilburn; Siblings: Jeanenne (Bill) Johnson, Cynthia Pecosky, Ralph Crowe, Edward Crowe, Vincent (Debbie) Crowe, and Jeffery Crowe, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents: James and Consuelo Crowe; Brothers: James Michael Crowe and Jerrold Lee Crowe; Daughter-in-law: Mary Lowthers Crowe.

Chuck also wanted his loved ones to know: "It has been a great life. God was very good to me, I learned a lot from life here on earth, and I am ready to move on! I love you all, you were all special to me. Hope we all can meet again in heaven! God Bless You All" Love,  
Chuck Crowe

His Memorial Service was held on Thursday February 10, 2022, at Spirit of Christ Catholic Community Located at 7400 W. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave. Arvada, CO 80003.

## **HELGA KRAUSE-DAY**

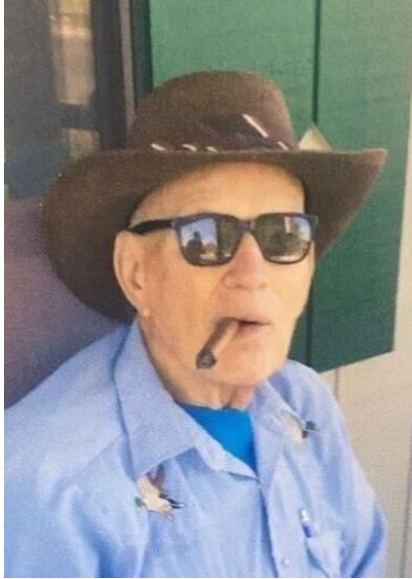
**December 13, 1931-  
September 16, 2021**

With sadness and loss, we express grief at the passing of our friend Helga Krause Day. Helga passed Saturday September 16th after brief hospitalization.

Helga was born in Berlin, Germany in 1931. Married Air Force man Bill Day.

Helga is survived by him, 2 sister in laws Karen and Nancy, and many close friends. Helga was a dear friend to the Commerce City Historical Society.





## **MARVIN GASSMAN SR.**

**Feb 2, 1936- Feb 10, 2022**

Marvin John Gassman Sr. 86, passed away February 10, 2022, at his daughter's home in Commerce City, CO. He was born Feb 2, 1936 in Holcomb Finney County, KS to John Conrad & Albina Gassman. Marvin is preceded in death by his wife, Myrna June Jones Gassman. He is survived by his four children, Marvin Gassman Sr. (Rose) of Broomfield, CO, Denise Bobian (Bill) of Thornton, CO, Doreen Gunning (Rick) of Commerce City CO, Susan Theesfeld (Jeff) of Commerce City, CO; two brothers, Ralph Gassman of Keenesburg, CO, Jerry Gassman of Brighton, CO. He has ten grandchildren and

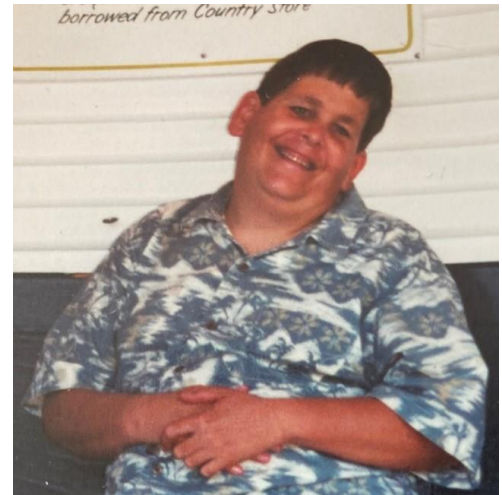
ten great grandchildren. Mass of Christian Burial was held at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 340 Stanford Street in Brush, CO. on Wednesday, February 16th at 10:30 AM. Interment followed in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Fort Morgan.

## **TAYLOR G. SCOTT**

**January 27, 1962 – February 13, 2022**

Taylor Guy Scott Born on January 27, 1962 in Denver, CO Passed away on February 13, 2022, at the age of 60. Preceded in death by father Henry (Bud) Scott and Mother Farris Scott. Taylor lived with his mother in their family home located in Thornton Colorado with the exception of the last two years after her passing.

Survived by: Brother - Wayne Scott, Sister-in-law Brenda Sister - Jadie Carson, Brother-in-law Rick Brother - Tom Scott Nephew - Kevin Carson, Niece-in-law Janice Niece - Sophia Scott Nephew - Vincent Vickery Nephew - Dean Scott Great nephews - Jay and Jordan Huffman Great Niece - Oliva Carson.



Taylor was a lifelong Broncos fan and a poster child for the Colorado Association for disabled children. Taylor's greatest gift was his ability to bring out the love within everyone. He will be greatly missed by all that knew and loved him.



## **ROBERTA “BERTA” WALSH**

### **October 21, 1957 - January 30, 2022**

Roberta was born on October 21, 1957, she was a lifetime resident of Commerce City, Colorado. Roberta was the youngest of four children born to Florence and Robert Walsh. She attended Commerce City schools and graduated from Adams City High School in 1975.

Roberta had two children Brian and Heather Welling. While the children were younger Roberta was able to enjoy the job of stay-at-home mom for her children. She loved being a mom, a second mom to her children's friends, and wonderful aunt to her numerous nieces and nephews. Roberta loved working on her yard while the kids were in school and took great pride in her beautiful landscape. In the community Roberta participated in several Co-Ed and Women's softball team alongside her sisters, Patti, and Claudia. She also enjoyed volunteering her time with activities hosted by the South Adams County Volunteer Fire Department such as the MDA Fill the Boot campaign and the Annual Spaghetti Dinner.

After her children were grown Roberta was able to enjoy bowling leagues, working at Denver International Airport for 19 years, and trips to Blackhawk and Central City. But the thing she enjoyed most in her life even more than being a mom, was the title of Grandma. Roberta cherished being a Grandma! Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and they were her world. All of her grandchildren adored their "mammo" just as much as she did them.

Sadly, Roberta passed away on January 30, 2022. She was preceded in death by her beloved mother Florence, father Robert Walsh, and brother John “Jack” Walsh. She is survived by her son Brian (Jennifer), daughters Heather, and Adreanna and her five grandchildren - Ashley, Aubrie, Wyatt, Joshua, and Adalynn. She also leaves behind her sisters Patti (Rick) and Claudia (Randy), Sister-in-law Teresa, numerous niece and nephews, and friends. There are no formal services planned at her request. She asked that you each celebrate her life in your own special way.

## MARY MARTIN

**Aug 25, 1925 -Jan 29, 2022**

Mary Martin moved to Derby in 1952 when her husband got a job as teacher and coach at Adams City High School. In 1955 they completed building their house, where she lived until June 2022. Mary was born in Nebraska in 1925.

She was greeted in heaven by her husband Mel and her son Marty. She left behind her daughter Janet (Fulton) son in law Jon, daughter in law Sherri Martin, her bonus child Jack Bay and her beloved grandsons JT Fulton, Devon, and Trace Martin, as well as her great granddaughters.



## Harold Rarick

**May 9, 1930 - January 8, 2022**

Harold Culler Rarick, Jr, age 91, was born May 9, 1930, on a farm near Royerton, IN to Harold Jacob Rarick and Dorcas LaVonne Culler Rarick. His childhood years were in Muncie, Lakeville, and Walkerton, IN. In the 7th grade a music teacher introduced him to a baritone horn which developed into a lifelong career in music. In 1947 the family moved to Denver, where he graduated from South High School. He attended Denver University and received a Bachelor and master's degree in music education. Hal taught instrumental music and band at Adams County Middle School for 57 years. He was a member of the Colorado Air National Guard concert band. While on active duty in Maryland. Hal switched from horn to piano. He was a gifted pianist and string bass player. Hal played many dance jobs in the Denver area clubs and organizations, including a 3-year gig at the Matterhorn club near Boulder. He enjoyed life-long friendships with some band members-some going back to South High School. He was a devoted caregiver to his mother till she died at age 97 in 2006. He loved pets and treasured the companionship of his two cats. Surviving family members include his sister, Sally S. Lindahl of Casper, Wyoming. Nephews Mikel Lindahl(Sandra), Casper, Wyoming, Peter Lindahl of Shoreline, WA, Andrew Lindahl (Robin), of Anchorage, Alaska and niece Suzan Bray (Bob) of Anchorage, Alaska



## **WESTON “Wes” CHARLES WILSON**

**March 4, 1944-January 26, 2022**

Wes was born in Denver, Colorado to Elmer and Ellen Wilson on March 1st, 1944. Wes was raised in the Englewood area and graduated Sheridan Union High School in 1961.

He started his career in law enforcement working as a police officer for the Sheridan Police Department. Wes followed his mentor, Ben Roach, to the Commerce City Police Department, where he retired as a Lieutenant. He was most proud of attending the FBI National Academy. Wes continued to serve the people of Commerce City after retirement as a member of City Council for two terms. Wes is survived by his wife, Mildred, his two sons, Keith and Scott, and his stepdaughters Kelly and Deborah.



## **CYRUS TIMOTHY WARNER**

**June 3, 1949 – February 15, 2022**

Tim was born in Waynesville MO. to parents Jesse and Elizabeth Warner. One of seven children, he Graduated from Leadwood Highschool in 1967. After high school he then enlisted in the Marine corps in 1969, after serving in Vietnam he was honorably discharged.

Once home he attended Carpentry trade school but decided to follow his long-time passion of automobiles. After several years residing in Missouri and Illinois Tim moved to Colorado in 1983 after accepting a position at RTD transportation. During his career there he was a highly certified mechanic in both gas and diesel automobiles and served in several position until his retirement.

One of his first passions from a young age was automobiles, his favorite cars where under the MOPAR umbrella. After his Military service he bought one of his favorite babies a 1973 Dodge Charger which is still in the family to this day. He was an avid racer be it full size cars or his slot cars, this was his favorite pastime. He spent many years building and racing them, if it went fast, he raced it.

During his life he formed many lifelong friendships, he did not know a stranger and would do anything for you. Family was always very important and his main priority. When he became a Papa, they became his world. They had him wrapped around his fingers from day one and he was

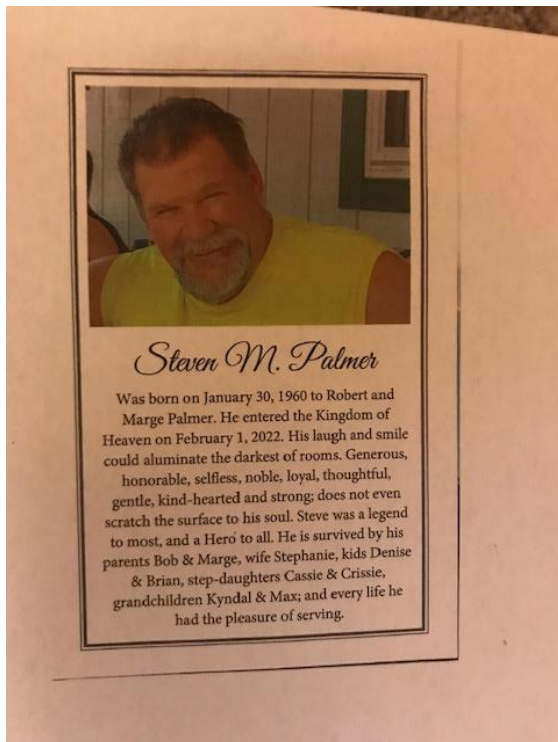


the best Papa.

He will be dearly missed by all that knew and loved him!

Cyrus is survived by his wife Leanita Warner; his children Joseph (Stephanie) Warner, Heather (Chris) LaCrue, and Jamie Warner; his grandchildren Connor Warner (6), Kylie Warner (8), Ryan LaCure (15), Dalton LaCrue (18), and Kevin Leider (25); his siblings Ray Warner, Birdie (Denver) Cox, and Tom (Garnell) Warner.

There was a public visitation to allow family and friends to say their final farewell to Cyrus on Wednesday, February 23 at 4pm at Horan & McConaty Funeral Home, 9998 Grant St., Thornton, CO. Cyrus was laid to rest at the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri



**Steven M. Palmer**

**January 30, 1960- February 1, 2022**

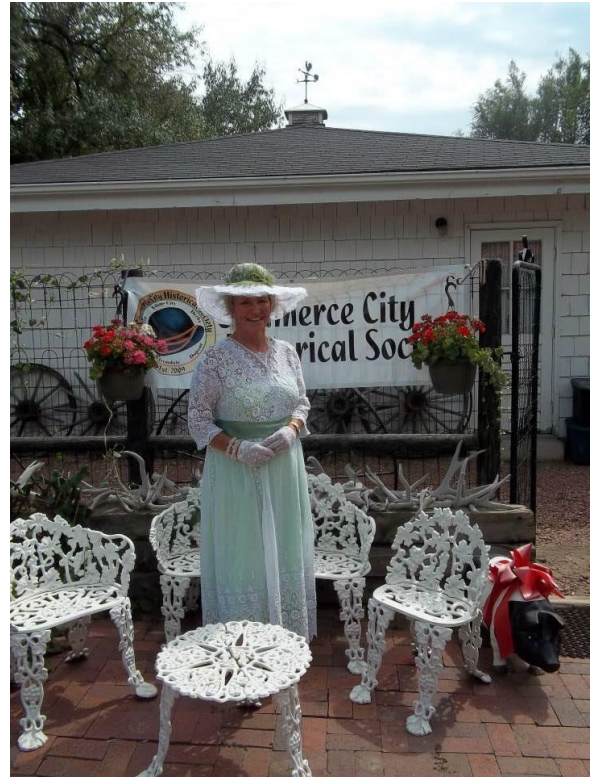
## **DOTTIE BAKKE**

**March 19, 1931- March 17, 2022**

Dottie Bakke was born in Luverne, Minnesota. She purchased the house at 6140 Holly Street which is one of the oldest homes in Commerce City, with her husband Duane in 1965. They had 3 children. And 2 grandchildren. Dottie worked at Continental Airlines for 25 years.

Dottie was a member of the Commerce City Historical Society and was one of our faithful members and volunteers

Dottie passed away on Thursday March 17, 2022. She will be greatly missed and always remembered as a Legendary Local for Commerce City.



## **VIVIAN PARKER**

**April 1, 1928 – January 17, 2022**


Celebration of life will be scheduled later this year with obituary information.



# 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. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Commerce City, Colorado 80022***

Individual	\$10.00	_____ (per year)
Family	\$25.00	_____ (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*

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Calls \_\_\_\_\_

Work at the Museum \_\_\_\_\_

Working at Events \_\_\_\_\_

Moving Items \_\_\_\_\_