

FROM TIME TO TIME

A Publication of the Commerce City Historical Society

JAN-JUNE 2025

Volume 16, Issue 1

Honoring Our Past – Celebrating Our Future



2025 LEGENDARY LOCALS

Jan - March



Nominate your Legendary
Local by visiting the
museum!



April-June – Commerce City VFW and Legion

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!

Commerce City Historical Society

OUR VISION...

“To Preserve the Commerce City Area History”

Because History Matters!

OUR MISSION...

- To accurately collect, memorialize, preserve and maintain the rich physical history of the peoples and times of the Great City of Commerce City.
- We will encourage all generations of the area to discover and embrace their great history and roots.
- The Society will work to collect history for the past, present and future boundaries of the City of Commerce City.
- The Society will establish and illustrate the history of the area.
- The Society will preserve such materials and make them accessible to all who wish to examine or study them.
- Collaborate with officials and other organizations to insure the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the City of Commerce City.
- The Society will maintain a museum for the protection, preservation and exhibition of all such materials.
- The Society will encourage the preservation of historic buildings by marking those buildings, sites and trails.
- The Society will be involved in various fundraising activities through grant writing and special events.

CCHS MEMBERSHIP-127 MEMBERS

FOUNDING MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

FAMILY

BUSINESS

MEMORIAL

SENIOR LIFETIME

LIFETIME

If you would like to become a member, see the application on the last page

Did you know that the US major highways are in numerical order from south to north and from west to east.





The Dottie
Bakke House –
Preserved by
the Commerce
City Historical
Society!

We would like to thank our local Colographic sign company and owner Jimmy Byrds for creating our sign and for hanging it up. We have been busy with landscaping and cleaning this property to start our preservation efforts. This is a great opportunity and a great project for the CCHS. We are doing an important job FOR THE COMMUNITY and for years to come by preserving this site and saving it from being demolished and redeveloped. Watch for our fundraising events and opportunities to be a part of this exciting project.

Our newest museum donation is the cannon from Adams City High School, which was used at the football games during a touchdown! Donated in April of 2025



THE VICTORIAN
OF COLORADO SOCIETY



TEA AT THE MANSION SERIES

OCTOBER 18TH 1PM

COMMERCE CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND
THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY OF COLORADO
INVITE YOU TO THE

TEA AND TOUR OF THE DOTTIE BAKKE HOUSE

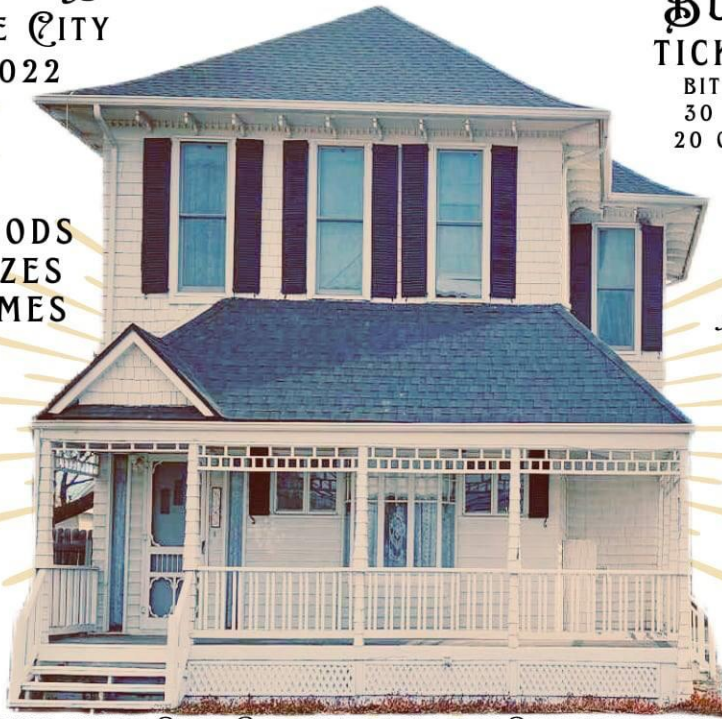
6140 HOLLY ST
COMMERCE CITY
CO 80022

BUY YOUR
TICKETS HERE:

BIT.LY/DOTTIETE
30 INDOOR SEATS
20 OUTDOOR SEATS

TEA
FINGER FOODS
DOOR PRIZES
MIXER GAMES

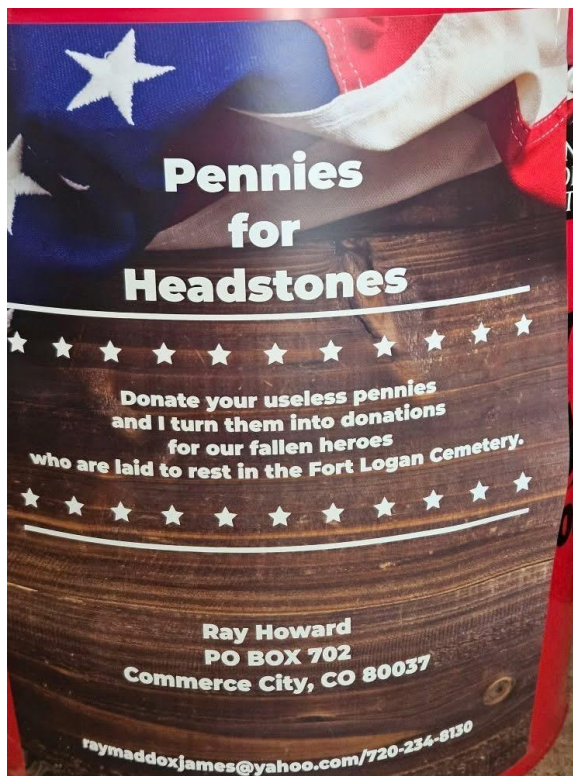
VICTORIAN
OUTFITS
ENCOURAGED!!



QUESTIONS CONTACT DEBRA BULLOCK (303) 946-3426 DEBRABULLOCK@GMAIL.COM
INFO@VICTORIANSOCIETYOFCOLORADO.ORG
@VICTORIANSOCIETYOFCOLORADO



Friday June 6, 2025, the Leadership Commerce City class learned about the local history of Commerce City. Starting at the Dottie Bakke House, visiting the museum and touring the city by bus with Debra Bullock President of the Commerce City Historical Society.



If you would like to donate Pennies for Headstones, we are collecting pennies at the museum. Ray Howard is a 1970 graduate of Adams City High School. He takes the pennies to Ft. Logan and places them on the graves of fallen soldiers.

Out & About



MiniCon March 2025

Sheila Harris, Troy Younger and Rene' Bullock attended the Commerce City MiniCon event held at the Bison Ridge Recreation center.



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Left to Right: Luis Calzada, Mayor Steve Douglas, Tim Gallagher and resident Harvest Thomas at the Memorial Day Parade. Luis and Tim were the Grand Marshalls.

Juneteenth celebration held at Pioneer Park Thursday June 19, 2025.



Debra Bullock, Lori Young, Sheila Harris and Rene' Bullock

working the CCHS table at Juneteenth

Walmart celebrating their 10-million-dollar remodel project. They opened in 1999 and did a complete remodel of the store in May 2025. The new mural located in the south entrance below depicts the Commerce City history.



On right, former Mayor Casey Hayes, his wife Marianne and their granddaughter in October 1999 at the store opening.





Ed Abromeit the store manager and associates cutting the ribbon for the newly remodeled store.

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.

To join please complete the form on the back page....

MEMBER & SPECIAL FRIENDS OBITUARIES...

Guy Dunning Jr.

January 1952 - July 2024

Guy Orson Dunning, Jr. was born in Denver, Colorado on January 6, 1952, to Doris Lou Dunning and Guy Orson Dunning, Sr. He grew up with two older siblings Randy Dunning and Debbie Young, he also had a half-sister and half-brother from his Father, Charlie Dunning, and Thelma Autenreith. During his childhood, he had a love for animals and had a pony named Nippy who would give Guy and his siblings rides pulling a cart. He also had several pet snakes and loved spending time outdoors. Guy grew up in Commerce City, CO where he attended school and met and married Debra Herbeck. They moved to Brighton, Colorado and had three children Guy III., Deana, and Jessie. Guy worked in construction mostly doing masonry work and owned his own business, Guy's Masonry. He built all of the families homes, and also built sheds as a side business. Guy lived in a country home that he built where he and his family spent a lot of time outdoors. Guy was a very hard worker and always willing to help people. He liked to work on old cars and helped his son Guy III. restore classic cars. Some fond family memories were taking his to the mountains for day trips and vacations. One time going on a road trip up and down the West Coast and visiting several National Parks. Guy liked boating and water skiing, and was part of an RV club that restored older RVs it was called the Cortez Club, where he had several good friends that would take Summer camping trips to different locations around Colorado. Guy was a born-again Christian and helped with construction projects at church when he could. Guy passed away on July 1, 2024, in the care of a friend in Gunnison, Colorado. Guy will be greatly missed by family and friends. Proceeding Guy in death is his Father Guy Sr., his Mother Doris, his Son Guy Jr., his Brother Randy, and his Sister Thelma. Guy is survived by his 2 daughters and their families Deana and Brian Berg, Jessie and Jake Giles, 23 Grandchildren, and 3 Great-Grandchildren. Also by his Sister Debbie Young, and Brother Charlie Dunning. Guy also had several nieces and nephews, cousins, and close friends. Guy is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Brighton, Colorado.





Herbert Eugene Stertz
August 6, 1939 ~ December 13,
2024 (age 85)

Herbert Eugene Stertz, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away at age 85 on December 13, 2024.

Herb was born in Brush, Colorado, to David and Esther Schumann Stertz. After graduating from Adams City High School in 1957 and attending the University of Colorado, he embarked on a remarkable 36 year career with Martin Marietta Corporation, where he contributed to numerous defense and NASA projects, including the

Titan Rocket, Viking Mars Explorer, and Space Shuttle programs. His work took him across the globe, where he made lasting friendships and left a significant impact in his field.

Herb proudly served in the Colorado Air National Guard with the 140th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TAC) USAF and was called to active duty several times before being honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force in 1969.

In 1961, he married Shirley Ann Mathews, the love of his life. Together, they raised three sons, David, Daniel (Stacy), and Derek (Shari), along with four grandchildren: Ashley, Zachary, Leopold, and Fiona. He is also survived by his sister Ellen, two brothers-in-law, a sister-in-law, many cousins, and nephews and nieces.

Known for his sharp wit and warm spirit, he was loved by many and will be deeply missed. He enjoyed traveling the world, sailing, attending football games, and gathering with his close-knit group of friends for breakfast and camaraderie. His famous quote was, "It doesn't get any better than this."

Herb's wisdom and kindness were evident in his advice to his sons: Give people a chance. His legacy of humor, dedication, and generosity lives on in all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A service was held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at the Drinkwine Family Mortuary, followed by a ceremony honoring his service at Fort Logan National Cemetery at 1:00 p.m.

Brian Joey Trujillo

June 23, 1973 – December 19, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Brian Trujillo, 51, of Commerce City, Colorado, who passed away on December 19th, 2024. Brian was a beloved husband, son, brother, father, grandfather and friend. He was known for his warmth, kindness, and unwavering loyalty to those he loved.

Born on June 23, 1973 in Denver Colorado, Brian was a lifelong resident of the area. He touched the lives of many with his infectious smile, generous spirit, and positive outlook on life. Brian had a passion for helping those affected with mental health issues. After retiring from the Commerce City police department, at the rank of sergeant, he joined his wife Nicole in the mental health field to continue to help his community. He was a man who valued hard work, family and the simple pleasures of life.



Brian is survived by his wife Nicole Festa, Mother Dorothy Trujillo, Sister Tammy Wilkes, Brother-in-law Joe Wilkes, Nephew Kyle Wilkes, Nephew Cameron Wilkes, Son Jacob Trujillo, Daughter in law Hayley Trujillo, Granddaughter Gracie Trujillo and many extended family members. He was preceded in death by his father Jake Trujillo.

His memory will live on in the hearts of family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A private funeral service was held December 31, 2025.

.



Norman James Union

January 4, 1941 — February 5, 2025

Norman James Union passed away peacefully on February 5, 2025 surrounded by family in Brighton, CO.

He was born in Cleveland, OH on January 4, 1941 and raised in Akron, OH. Norm attended Ohio State and graduated from Kent State after serving his country for 3 years in the Army. He went to most European Countries during his service and most US States after the Army and before marrying Janet Swank. Janet and Norm had a daughter, Sarah.

Janet and Norm met during a bike trip sponsored by Colorado Mountain Club. They traveled and hiked US wide and enjoyed square dancing. They began the Commerce City Beacon in March 1988 and Norms Printing in 1982. Norm ran Norms Printing until November 2023 when he moved to assisted living in Brighton.

Norm was very community minded and volunteered his time endlessly especially in the Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, founding father of the Commerce City Historical Society and active in The Colorado State Grange. Norm loved spending time at the Casino and eating great food. He was true Patriot.

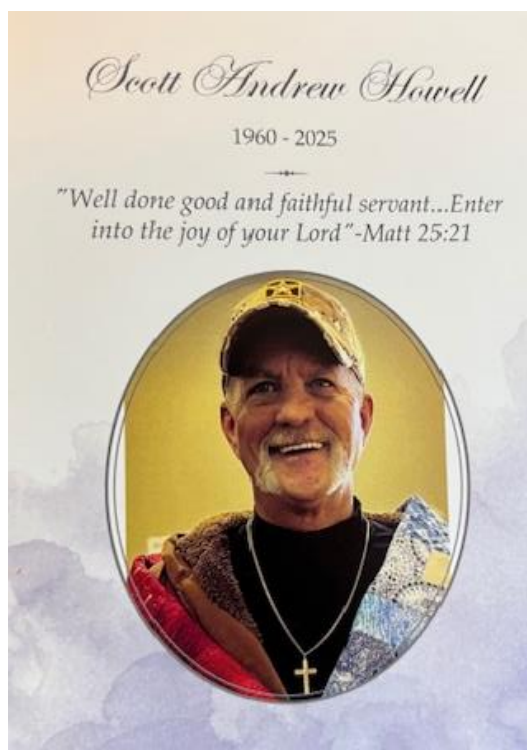
He is preceded in death by his wife, Janet and his daughter, Sarah and his parents. He is survived by: sister, Lois; sisters in law, Barbara and Carol; brothers in law, Robert and Walter; and nieces and nephews, Paula, Ronnie, Lee, Maggie, Paul, Alex, Stacey, Kim, Jo, and Stan.

A funeral Service was held Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at Horan & McConaty. Norm was laid to rest with his wife and daughter in Elmwood Cemetery, Brighton

Linda Lenore Claybaugh

July 11, 1945 - Feb 5, 2025

Linda Lenore Guernsey Claybaugh, 81, passed away on February 5, 2025. She was born in Holyoke, Colorado. She graduated from Wray High School in 1961. She came to Denver to attend Parks Business School. She worked as a Secretary for Frontier Airlines. She enjoyed traveling with her girlfriends. In August 1963, she married Leonard George Claybaugh. Leonard was in the Navy and was stationed in San Diego, California. Linda continued to work in Denver and later went to work for the Air Force Reserves as a secretary. In 1967, Leonard and Linda bought their first home in Commerce City which became their forever home. Leonard and Linda had 2 children, Brian and Brenda. Leonard passed away in 2003 from Leukemia. After Leonard passed away Linda became a home care provider and a single mom supporting her family. Linda was actively involved in the kid's school events, PTA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Commerce City. After the kids were grown, she went back to the Air Force Reserves before retiring in 1989. She was a farm girl, and she loved anything that reminded her of a farm. She loved cats, chicken, Elvis Presley songs, flowers, and Avon. She is survived by her son Brian, her daughter Brenda, son-in-law Dennis O'Buck and 2 grandchildren, Murphy 17 and Grady 15, and her sister Glenda Ramsey of Dacono, Colorado.



Scott Howell

August 9, 1960 - Feb 13, 2025

Scott Andrew Howell, 64, of Commerce City, passed away February 13, 2025. He was born on August 9, 1960, in Denver, Colorado, the son of Keith and Joan Howell. Scott worked for the United States Postal Service, painted and remodeled homes with Task Master, and drove a truck with ABS Trucking.

Scott was a Sergeant in the United States Army for 10 years during the Persian Gulf War and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, National Defense Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars. Scott loved serving his country. Scott was a humble and selfless person, who

was known for his kindness and generosity, always readily offering a helping hand to those in need. He was committed to his Family, Friends, Neighbors, Church and Country. He enjoyed fishing and watching football, especially the Broncos. Scott listed to a wide range of music but loved the Beatles and Acapella singing. He also loved the Pirates of the Caribbean movies and had the whole series.

Scott is survived by his brothers Bill Howell and Doug Howell. Sister-in-Law Janet, Nieces Amy, Jennifer, and Sue and Nephews Keith, Ricky, Greg, Justin, Jarrett and Tony. Preceded in death by his parents Keith and Joan Howell, Brother Raymond Howell, Sister Karen Howell, Sisters in Law Julie and Vasha, Niece Shannon and Nephew Ronnie.

Kristen Hayes

November 25, 1986 – February 27, 2025

Kristen Leah Hayes, a cherished wife, devoted mother, esteemed coworker, wonderful daughter, and dear friend, passed away unexpectedly from acute myeloid leukemia (AML) on February 27, 2025, at the age of 38. Born November 25, 1986, Kristen lived a vibrant life that radiated warmth, kindness, and an adventurous spirit.

Kristen was born and raised in Colorado. She graduated from Thorton High School and eventually put herself through the fire academy at North Washington Fire Department, where she cultivated the skills that shaped her remarkable career in public service. From the start, her passion for uplifting others shone brightly through her dedicated work in emergency services, bringing hope and support to the communities she served. Throughout her fire service journey, she excelled as an Emergency Medical Technician, Firefighter, Arson Investigator, Fire and Life Safety Educator, Community Risk Reduction Specialist, and Fire Inspector. Yet, her unwavering commitment to educating and protecting the people in her community truly inspired those around her.

A true Disney enthusiast, Kristen infused her life with an infectious sense of wonder and joy. Always looking for the next adventure, she transformed family trips and everyday moments into unforgettable experiences. Her boundless creativity and unique perspective inspired those around her to approach challenges with positivity and innovation, reflecting her deep faith in service to others and God.

Her family was her greatest treasure. Fiercely devoted to her husband, Michael Hayes, and profoundly loving her four children, Jameson, Skylar, Millie, and Logyn, Kristen cherished each



moment spent with them, creating memories that would be treasured forever. She is also survived by her dear sisters, Shanda and Tristan, and loving parents, Nanci and Steven, who will eternally hold her in their hearts.

Kristen's generous spirit and joyful heart profoundly touched everyone she met. Her remarkable ability to bring laughter and light into challenging moments creates a legacy many will hold dear. While she will be deeply missed, the love and memories she shared will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Kristen's extraordinary life will be celebrated on March 21, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Flatirons Community Church, located at 355 W. South Boulder Rd, Lafayette, CO 80026. All who know her are invited to join in remembrance and to honor the beautiful life she lived.

Arthur Lee Herrman
December 16, 1931-February 11, 2025



Arthur Herrman, 93, of Denver, Colorado, passed away peacefully on February 11, 2025. Arthur was born on December 16, 1931, in Liebenenthal, Kansas, to Blanch and Aloys Herrman.

Arthur was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife of 67 years, Edna, and his son-in-law, Bryan. He is survived by his three daughters, Debi (Ron), Kay (Joe), Sheri (Bryan, deceased) and Sue (Eric), as well as his nine grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. He was also blessed with five sisters: Shirley, Dody, Lily, Ruby, and Tootsie.

Arthur spent over 30 years working at Mitchell Campers, where he was known for his dedication and work ethic. Outside of work, he had a deep love for the outdoors. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and reading, often spending his leisure time immersed in his favorite books. Arthur's family and friends will remember him for his kindness, his sense of humor, and the love he shared with all who knew him. He will be deeply missed but forever cherished in the hearts of his family.

May he rest in peace



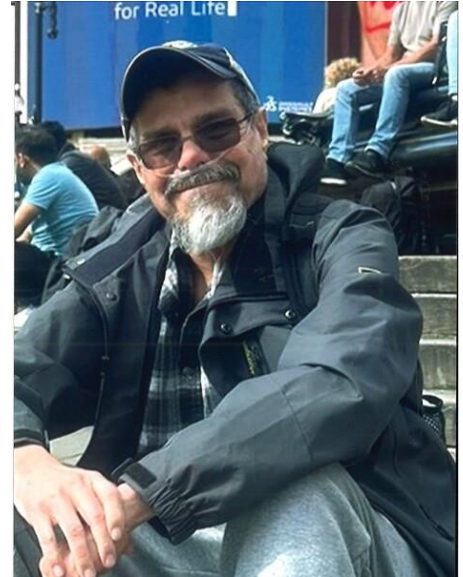
Katherine Kenny

September 6, 1934-February 27, 2025

Christopher Naranjo

December 23, 1962-March 2, 2025

Christopher B. Naranjo was born December 23, 1962 in Santa Fe, New Mexico and passed away peacefully surrounded by family and loved ones on March 2, 2025 at 3:55pm. Chris, son to Sam and Irene, was a dedicated husband for 32 years to Amy, a beloved father to Kristen and Cilan and bonus daughter Kayla, brother to Debbie, Linda Marie, Michele, Connie, and Sam Jr., everyone's favorite uncle, a dog dad to beloved family dog Noah "Butt", and a friend to everyone in his life. Chris enjoyed a fulfilling career working in IT with IBM and Comcast that furthered his love of computers, technology and being able to tinker with anything electronic.



Chris had many hobbies, including his love of Star Wars and Star Trek, the Lord of the Rings, all things Disney, reading and collecting the thrilling tales of Stephen King books, building his endless DVD collection, drinking Starbucks and Dutch Bros, watching movies (he knew so much movie trivia!), and especially traveling. During his life, Amy and Chris had been blessed to be able to travel to many places, including his dream destination of Paris, France. Inspired by one of his favorite movies Casablanca, he continuously ensured Amy "We'll always have Paris." Chris will always be remembered for his ability to find wonder in the things he loved. His enthusiasm for his interests was infectious, and he brought a sense of playful joy to those around him. He is fondly known by Amy as her "biggest kid."

Chris was a beautiful writer and often left Amy love letters and notes. He also loved taking photos to share with his family and friends, always excited to show how far the camera can zoom in.

Those who knew Chris well will remember his many signature phrases: "How ya gonna act?" "Irrelevant!" "I don't know, I just work here" "And your point is?" "Hardy Har Har" "Chop Chop!" "You fly I buy" "What am I, chopped liver?" "I did my bit" and so many more.

He is survived by the love of his life, Amy; his children, Kristen (Ken) and Cilan (Tyler); his bonus daughter, Kayla (Anjel); his mother, Irene.; and countless nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles, in-laws, and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Sam, and his brother, Sam Jr.

We will miss Chris' sense of humor that lit up every room and brought together everyone. He had a way of making everyone feel welcome and was the life of the party. You could find him in the middle of the dance floor with "a brewski" in hand.

Alma Angelina Guardiola

November 21, 1952 – March 5th, 2025



Alma Guardiola, born in San Francisco del Oro, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Guerrero Palma and Maria del Refugio (Cuca) Sanchez, was the beloved sister of Ildefonso (Poncho). She married Armando Guardiola on October 9, 1976, and together they shared 31 years of marriage before parting ways in 2007. Alma spent the majority of her life in Commerce City, CO, where she lovingly raised her four children. She had a passion for cooking and enjoyed preparing delicious meals for her family and friends. Everyone looked forward to her enchiladas, menudo, and homemade flour tortillas, which were always a source of comfort and joy.

Alma worked at Little Giants Learning Center, where she prepared amazing meals for the children, touching many lives over the years. She also worked for many years at the Flea Market, where she dedicated herself to her work and made many lasting friendships.

Alma is survived by her son, Armando Jr. (Kristin) Guardiola, and his five children: Carlos, Iliana, Aemiliano, Thalia, and Diego; her son, Jose Luis (Lisa) Guardiola, and their son, Jose-Luis; her daughter, Alma Celia (Kenny) Martinez, and their children: Karyme, Kenny Jr., and Anali; and her son, Pablo (Janessa) Guardiola, and their sons: Daniel and Matías and many nieces, nephews and cousins. She is preceded in death by her parents and her brother.

Alma's memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

Helma Rose Goff

July 14th, 1930 - March 7th, 2025



Helma Rose Goff, 94, of Commerce City, Colorado, passed away peacefully in her home on Friday morning, March 7th, 2025. Funeral services were held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church. She was laid to rest at Ft. Logan National Cemetery.

Born on July 14, 1930, in Colome, South Dakota, to the late Edward and Rose (Schamber) Steinke, she was the sixth child born out of nine siblings. She married Robert (Bob) Goff on February 25,

1953, in Tijuana, Mexico. They were married for 36 years before his passing in 1989. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and will be lovingly remembered for her devotion to her family, her red chili, love of crossword puzzles, Bud Light, soap operas, and her warm heart.

Helma loved bowling, working in her yard, and belonged to the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Veterans of Foreign War. She was a devoted Lutheran, who belonged to Our Saviour Lutheran Church for over 60 years. In her younger years, she and Bob traveled and lived throughout the U.S., opening and running several businesses along the way, before finally settling down in Commerce City in 1966. Her kindness, compassion, and laughter will never be forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob, parents, six sisters and one brother. She is survived by her daughter, Debbie (Randy) Evans, and son David (Kim) Goff; grandchildren Brandon Kerls, Courtney (Kyle) Chapin, Caitlin (Shawn) Zellner, Taylor Evans, Caidance Goff, Trinity Goff, Curt (Maggi) Evans, Craig Evans, Debbi (Tom) Saller, Robert Goff, Jim Goff, Kimberly (Landon) Boone, Craig Goff; and great-grandchildren Tyler Kerls, Trindon Kerls, Carlee Chapin, Kaycee Chapin, Cameron Chapin, Rosalynn Zellner, Gracelynn Zellner, Khalen Zellner, Gunner Evans, Zaila Evans, Eli Johnson, brother, Harry (Doris) Steinke, along with numerous nieces and nephews.

We will carry her memory in our hearts forever.

Alberta Jean Elhart

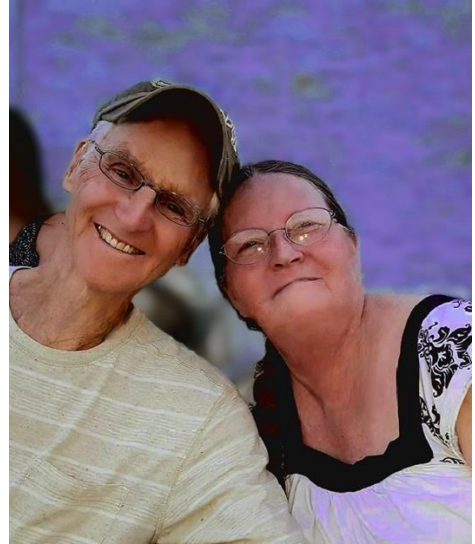
January 22, 1949 – March 15, 2025

Alberta Jean Elhart, born on January 22, 1949, in Colorado, passed away peacefully on March 15, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She was the beloved daughter of Charles and Lois, a devoted wife, a cherished mother, and a loving grandmother and great-grandmother.

Alberta spent her years working as an Avon lady, but it was at an airport job where she met the love of her life, Albert Gary Elhart. Though she wasn't interested at first, Albert's persistence and devotion eventually won her heart. The two married on February 14, 1978, blending their families into one. Alberta had two children, James and Lois, while Albert had two daughters, Dorothy and Carolyn. Together, they welcomed their daughter, Cari, completing their beautiful family. Alberta and Albert were happily married for 47 years.

Known for her bright fire-red hair and an even brighter spirit, Alberta found joy in the simple things—crafting, crocheting, painting, and, most of all, spending time with those she loved. She treasured picnics, scenic drives through the mountains, visiting old towns and quaint shops, and the occasional trip to the casino for a bit of fun. Her warm hugs were legendary, a true expression of her endless love and kindness.

Alberta was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother who touched the lives of everyone she met. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered in the hearts of those who loved her.



Carol Kenworthy

March 25, 1950 – April 9, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of a beloved woman, Carol Kenworthy (Davis). Carol was born on the 25th of March 1950, and peacefully departed on the 9th of April, 2025.

She was a cherished wife, mother, and friend. Carol leaves behind her devoted husband Kenneth Kenworthy, loving daughter Gayle Belvin, precious grandson Colin Belvin, and caring brothers Dale and Keith Davis. She is predeceased by her parents, Joann and Lloyd Davis.

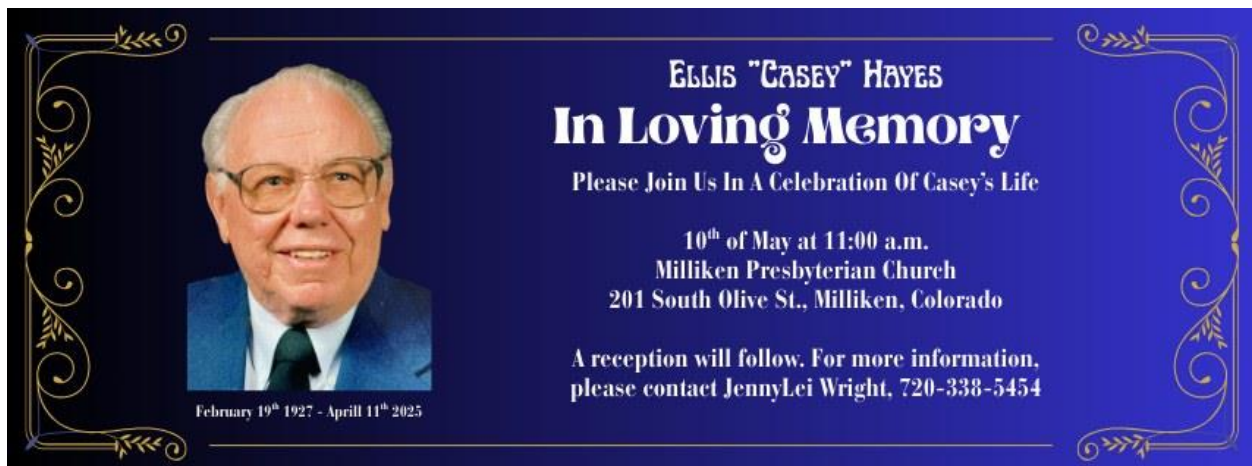
Carol graduated from Adams City High School, Commerce City, CO in 1968. In the same year, she exchanged vows with the love of her life, Kenneth. The couple welcomed their bundle of joy, Gayle, on the 30th of October 1974. The joy of Carol's life was further multiplied with the birth of her grandson, Colin, in 2009.

Carol was an avid reader who had a preference for horror and romance novels. The Denver Broncos and Colorado Avalanche held a special place in her heart as she was their fervent supporter. In her free time, Carol enjoyed exploring the great outdoors through camping and fishing with her husband and grandson. Her creative side was evident in her love for art, painting, and crafts.

Carol's memory will be kept alive by those she left behind, and she will be deeply missed. Her laughter, love, and wisdom will forever echo in our hearts. As we mourn her loss, we also celebrate a life well-lived. May her soul find rest and peace

E.E. Casey Hayes

February 18, 1928-April 11, 2025



The obituary notice is set against a dark blue background with a decorative gold-colored border. On the left is a portrait of an elderly man with glasses, wearing a blue suit and a dark tie. Below the portrait, the dates "February 19th 1927 - April 11th 2025" are printed. To the right of the portrait, the text reads: "ELLIS 'CASEY' HAYES" in a serif font, followed by "In Loving Memory" in a larger, stylized serif font. Below this, it says "Please Join Us In A Celebration Of Casey's Life". The date and time of the service are listed as "10th of May at 11:00 a.m." at the "Milliken Presbyterian Church", "201 South Olive St., Milliken, Colorado". At the bottom, it states "A reception will follow. For more information, please contact JennyLei Wright, 720-338-5454".

ELLIS "CASEY" HAYES
In Loving Memory
Please Join Us In A Celebration Of Casey's Life
10th of May at 11:00 a.m.
Milliken Presbyterian Church
201 South Olive St., Milliken, Colorado
A reception will follow. For more information,
please contact JennyLei Wright, 720-338-5454
February 19th 1927 - April 11th 2025

Susan Carol Carabajal
February 22, 1945 - May 9, 2025

U.S. Veteran

Susan Carol Carabajal, age 80, passed away peacefully on Friday evening, May 9th, 2025, at her Colorado home in the presence of beloved family members. She was born February 22nd, 1945, in Illinois, a daughter of the late Stanley and Francis Stanek.



Sue Carol, as she was known in her youth, was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Jim. Her memory lives on with her daughter Michelle, her two sons, Andre (Kimberly) and Jason (Maria); 3 grandchildren Adrienne, Jaydon and Jaxon and 4 great grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews.

After serving in the United States Navy, where she met her husband Jim, they married and moved to Colorado where they spent the rest of their lives raising a family and making lifelong friends. Her faith also led to many lifetime friendships and longstanding contributions to the Catholic church and many of its communities, including the Catholic Daughters which was one of her most cherished groups.

Susan was always looking to broaden her horizons through travel, having gone to many corners of the world and always coming back with multitudes of stories, souvenirs and photographs to share with the people she cared about. She loved her Cubbies and the Broncos and would always yell out a passionate “get em” whenever her team needed a boost. Her love of family, faith and Elvis will always be remembered and live on as an everlasting memory of Susan. A funeral service was held at St. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, on May 21, 2025. She is buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery.

Mary Landin

January 1926- May 2025

In loving memory of Mary Landin, born January 1926 to May 2025, 99 years of age.

She is survived by son Lloyd, daughters Gloria, Sharon (Gary). And was blessed with 6 grandchildren, Tino, Andrea (Alex), Lisa (Tom), Tamara (Ryan), Kevin (Becca), Veronica and 9 great grandchildren. She was a beacon in her community,

with several years volunteering at the Commerce City Senior Center and made many loving friends.



Donald Ray Koger

February 5, 1933 — June 15, 2025

Donald Ray Koger, “Popi”, was born in Englewood, CO on February 5, 1933.

He was called to heaven at the age of 92, in Henderson, CO on June 15, 2025.

He is survived by his 3 children: Mike (Susie), Pattie (Frank), and Ken (Maria). He is also survived by his 9 grandchildren and their spouses, 12 great grandchildren, 1 great great grandchild and his

brother Ronald Koger.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Eileen Kempter Koger, parents, John Ralph and Viola E. Gardner Koger, brothers and sisters, Ethel Greeno, Alice Pinkerton, Ralph Koger, Alverda Koger, Elmer Clifton Koger, Earl Koger, Marjorie Koger, June Stohr and Jackie Koger.



Joann Stevenson

January 11, 1940 — June 22, 2025

JoAnn Stevenson passed away at home on June 22, 2025, surrounded by her daughters.

JoAnn is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 63 years, Richard, whom she and many others affectionate called “Steve”, as well as her parents Earl and Teresa Saurini, brothers Dominic and John, and great granddaughters Catherine and Briley.

JoAnn leaves behind her daughters Teresa Goodwin (Chris), Patti Toldness (Terry), Carol Menard (Mike), Gina Seamans (Jim), and Peggy Puetz (Mark), as well as 18 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.



JoAnn was born in Denver, and was a life-long resident of Adams County, aside from short stints in Goldsboro, North Carolina, and Jacksonville, Florida. She graduated in 1957 from Adams City High School and attend Barnes Business College. She met Richard, who was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base, in Denver’s City Park in the fall of 1959. They married in May

1960 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and raised their five daughters in Adams County. She was a faithful parishioner of Our Lady Mother of Church and Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, serving on parish councils and volunteering in many capacities. JoAnn's family and friends knew her as an exceptional homemaker, patriotic citizen, business executive who helped manage the family business in Commerce City, an elected official for South Adams County Water & Sanitation District, and a co-founder and dedicated volunteer of the Commerce City Historical Society. JoAnn's primary hobby was spending time with family and friends during bowling leagues, card clubs, worldwide travel, spaghetti dinners, family reunions, backyard picnics and just gathering in her large living room. A funeral was held at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church and she is buried at Mr. Olivet Catholic Cemetery.

Leona Agnes Heater

March 30th, 1933 - June 19th, 2025

In Loving Memory of Leona Agnes Heater

Leona Agnes Heater, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on June 19, 2025, at the age of 92. Born on March 30, 1933, in Akron, Colorado, to Florian John Gebauer and Martha C. (Haas) Gebauer, Leona was raised in a loving home rooted in faith and hard work. She carried those values with her throughout her life.



Leona later moved to Commerce City, Colorado, where she built a life centered on family, service, and community. She dedicated her career to nurturing young lives as the Cafeteria Manager at Monaco Elementary School. Known for her warm heart and bright smile, she loved serving the children and took joy in caring for each one as if they were her own.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Leona cherished her family deeply. In her final two years, she enjoyed a new chapter of life exploring Mississippi and Tennessee with her daughter. Still, her heart always belonged to Colorado, especially the majestic mountains she so adored. She even named her beloved dog "Rocky" in honor of them.

Leona now rejoins her beloved husband, Donald Dean Heater, in eternal peace.

She is survived by her loving children: Donald Heater and his wife Sherry of Commerce City, Colorado; Roger Heater of Rio Rancho, New Mexico; Peggy Christian of Mountain Home, Idaho; Cecilia Russell of Lafayette, Tennessee; and Frederick Heater and his wife Sashkia of Wisconsin.

She also leaves behind numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all of whom were her greatest joy.

A funeral was held at Our Lady Mother of the Church. Leona was laid to rest at Saint Joseph's Cemetery in Akron, Colorado, returning to the hometown where her beautiful journey began.

Leona's life was a shining example of grace, kindness, and unwavering love. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched and the hearts that will forever hold her memory.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

When we lose someone
we love, we must learn
not to live without them,
but to live with the love
they left behind.



InspirationCabin.com

The Dottie Bakke House updates!



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 _____