



Gerald Wayne Mills

April 23, 1950 - October 28, 2014

Gerald Wayne (Whitey) Mills of Fort Collins, Colorado, passed away peacefully at home October 28, 2014, at 64 years young of complications from MDS; a form of blood cancer.

He was born April 23, 1950 in Lebanon, KY to Eulavon (Newberry) Mills and Duward Mills. His mother being from Colorado, his family returned to Fort Collins when Gerald was 3 years old. He attended schools in Fort Collins, graduating from Poudre High School in 1969. He married Cheryl Thomas in 1974 (divorced 1983), the mother of his daughter Carrie and son Tyler. He began his career in the meat industry while in high school working at Frozen Food Center and several years as a foreman at Donoho Meat Processing under the inspection of the USDA. He was an expert butcher and meat cutter. After a 6 month consulting assignment at Callahan's Meat Processing in San Diego and a short time working at Steel's Market in the meat department, he switched sides and worked for the USDA-FSIS as an inspector primarily at Monfort's in Greeley earning several awards for his service. In his spare time he would clean, cut, grind and wrap wild game for friends. He was a meat connoisseur in every aspect, keeping family, friends and neighbors informed of all the good deals. He cut his own steaks, ground his own hamburger (80/20); made the best jerky and variety of sausages.

He owned and operated a successful watch business in the Foothills Mall. After selling that business he owned and operated holiday kiosks in the Mall for a couple of years, attending training in California and Florida on the products he sold. His interests included canning tomatoes, pickled green tomatoes, and delicious pickles. He enjoyed cooking, his specialties being prime rib, chili, green chili, and chili rellenos among others. He had a knack for finding the women far and near from whom he could buy homemade tamales. He collected knives and could swiftly and expertly sharpen a knife and straighten an edge with his eyes closed. His other interests included buying, selling, trading and collecting guns, and he was a proud member of the NRA. He was a diehard fan of Fox News, O'Reilly and Huckabee in particular. He was a true patriot. In his younger years he (and his horse) participated in calf roping, just selling his saddle in recent years, always a cowboy at heart and one would rarely see him in anything other than Wranglers (heavy

starch and crease down the center). His passion was the foothills and mountains that he knew like his own back yard, having all the toys for camping, hunting, fishing, 4-wheeling. At a young age, he worked alongside his uncle blasting and building roads and skidding logs in those same foothills and mountains. Per his wishes, his ashes will be released to sail in the breeze at his favorite spot, high above a deep, beautiful valley, truly heaven on earth.

He married Sonja 23 years ago in May 1991. The first time she laid eyes on Gerald, the dreamiest guy she had ever laid eyes on, was in 1968 when Gerald and his brother, Dickey, worked for the moving company that moved Sonja's family into their home. She didn't see him again, until school started and was surprised and elated to see him again. He never paid attention to her, until they ran into each other in 1989 and started dating. She survives him along with his daughter Carrie Makloski (Tory and his sons Bailey and Riley), son Tyler, grandsons Brody and Joey Makloski, Tyler and Trevor Mills, brothers Dean Mills (Kaylene) of Lawton, OK, and Tony Mills (Judy) of Glendo, WY, sister Debbie Swartz of Fort Collins (Caleb, Tad), his brothers in-law Chip Walbye (Terri, Jason, Bryan) of Victorville, CA and Jeff Walbye (Carol, Jack) of Ft. Collins, his mother-in-law Marie Walbye of Ft. Collins, several special nieces and nephews, including nephew Tad who could call in the elk like no one Gerald had ever seen and nephew Terry Jackson of Lingle, WY (Denise, Hank and Joe). He joins his mother and father, a brother Dicky and sister Joann Jackson in Heaven.

Gerald had a good heart that earned him many friends, all whom will miss him along with his family. A special thank you to Dr. David Abbey and his nurses, Kathy and Barb for their care and sincere compassion shown to Gerald over the years and to Pathways Hospice nurse, Tonya for her care and kindness during his final days.

Please join a casual celebration of Gerald's life at 2:00 PM, Tuesday, November 11th at the Lodge at Mackenzie Place: 4750 Pleasant Oak Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Larimer County Humane Society, Larimer County Food Bank or Pathway's Hospice, thank you.

Events

NOV **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

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The Lodge at Mackenzie Place

4751 Pleasant Oak Drive, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80525

Comments



“ I just recently found out about Gerald's untimely death. I was Gerald's first love. He walked me home every day from school. He had contacted me a few years before his passing to reminisce. I sent him a picture taken of us in jr high and he told me laughingly that his wife's family, after he had shown them, asked "which one are you?" I saw Linda also wrote on this wall. Don't be overwhelmed, Sonja, by Gerald's early loves. He was a good man and I think maybe he knew he only had a short time left and that was the impetus for our conversations, a reliving of his past one more time. Sonja, he had nothing but love and high regard for you. You were the love of his life. I hope the years have given you some peace with his passing. I know what a tragic loss this was for you. I wish you and your family the best as I'm sure you're still grieving this wonderful guy.

Respectfully,

Jana Hotchkiss

Jana Williams - May 08, 2017 at 11:39 AM



“ Missing you, Gerald, so much. And now you and Tyler are together once again, and we all will join you, no doubt. Good to know you are there, waiting with open arms.
Love, Sonja

Sonja - February 16, 2015 at 10:58 PM



“ Sonja lit a candle in memory of Gerald Wayne Mills



Sonja - February 16, 2015 at 10:53 PM



“ I met Whitey way back in t h e early 70's. We had a lot of good times dancing, having a few beers and just talking. Life took us in different directions so unfortunately I had not seen or talked to him for a long time until he called a few months ago. It was so good to hear from him. I never knew he was sick...I am so sorry Whitey! Wish I could have seen you one more time. You were definitely one of the good guys. You will always be missed!

My condolences go out to all of his family for the loss of a very special man. I will keep you all in my prayers.

Lynette Munroe

Lynette Munroe - November 10, 2014 at 12:03 AM



“ Rest in Peace Whitey. I remember him back when he worked at Donahoe. One of the good guys... Will be missed bunches.
Gladys Nauta Ellerman

Gladys Nauta Ellerman - November 06, 2014 at 04:19 PM



“ The first time I meet Gerald was when I was in Jr High. My brother had a 4H steer that was ready for processing and he came to our house in his truck. When he got there he had a gun in one hand and a winch cable in the other. Before you knew it he had the steer winched over to the truck dressed and cleaned. Then he began to skin it out, it was amazing watching him work. I thought to myself that I want to be able to do that some day. Later we became good friends roping at Corkey Warens and riding snowmobiles together with friends and family. He was always someone that I looked up to. It was a pleasure and privilege to know the man.

Mark Deines

Mark Deines - November 05, 2014 at 06:13 PM



“ Debbie Swartz lit a candle in memory of Gerald Wayne Mills



Debbie Swartz - November 05, 2014 at 06:20 AM



“ My brother, my friend, my shoulder to lean on,I will miss him so much, one of my favorite childhood memories, was him carrying me to school on his shoulders in a blizzard, and he kept telling me everything was going to be alright, and it was. Thanks for being my brother, I love you,Debbie

Debbie Swartz - November 05, 2014 at 06:19 AM



“ My heart goes out to all of you for the loss of such a wonderful man, he will be greatly missed

Anna Hersh - November 04, 2014 at 06:22 PM



“ Linda Lesser White lit a candle in memory of Gerald Wayne Mills



Linda Lesser White - November 04, 2014 at 04:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Sonja - November 04, 2014 at 01:18 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Sonja - November 04, 2014 at 01:15 PM



“ 20 files added to the album New Album Name



Sonja - November 04, 2014 at 01:00 PM



“ Gerald was one of the sweetest and most loyal people.....we met in the 8th grade and dated until the year after we graduated in 1969....so many wonderful memories of growing up together in the small town of Ft. Collins. You will always be in my heart
Gerald....

Linda Meyer

Linda Meyer - November 03, 2014 at 10:12 PM



“ Linda Meyer lit a candle in memory of Gerald Wayne Mills



Linda Meyer - November 03, 2014 at 10:03 PM



“ Jim and Whitey have known each other & worked together for many years since-- Whitey was in high school. He has always been a true & caring friend to Jim and Sharon. I guess it is true--the good ones go early. We will miss you even though we didn't see each other that often. We hope you are in peace.

Love, Jim & Sharon Brookshire

Sharon Brookshire - November 03, 2014 at 04:05 PM



“ I have known Whitey for many years. I am sorry for your loss, but we will see him again in heaven.

Wayne Yauk

Wayne Yauk - November 03, 2014 at 01:19 PM



“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Gerald Wayne Mills



Chrissy - October 31, 2014 at 12:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sonja - October 31, 2014 at 11:12 AM