



## Darwin M. Roe

May 14, 1935 - August 24, 2014

It is with deep and heavy sadness, that we announce the death of Darwin M. Roe who passed away on August 24th 2014. Darwin was born in Long Pine, Nebraska on May 14th 1935 to Cornelius and Vera (Miller) Roe. Darwin spent his younger years in Cortez, Colorado. In 1955 he married his high school sweetheart, Leora Stanley. The following year, Darwin began his military career, proudly serving his country in the Army National Guard beginning in 1956 and rose to the rank of Command Sergeant Major; later retiring in 1996. In 1972 he moved his family to Fort Collins, Colorado where he spent the next 36 years, then in 2009 he moved to Pierce, Colorado.

Darwin is preceded in death by his wife, Leora Stanley Roe, his father Cornelius Roe, mother Vera Roe brother Darrell (Peggy) Roe, sisters: Lavona Roe, Irma Powell, Vada (J.E.) Small, Lilly (Darwin) James, and Stanton Stanley. He will be mourned by his wife Maggie Roe, his daughters: Teresa Barnes, Tracy (Mike) Keegan and Natalie Winfrey; grandchildren: Adam (Kristi), Tyler, and Mikka Keegan, Haley and Taylor Barnes, Amber and Abigail Winfrey and great grandchildren: Dakota and Charlie Rice; brother-in-law, Sidney Powell and sister and brother-in-law Lois and Bill Rutledge.

Darwin dedicated his life to playing hard, working hard and loving life. He was always up for the next great adventure and looked for every opportunity to get on his horse and ride; a true cowboy! Intelligent, innovative and determined

(did I mention always right??!!) are accurate words to describe this amazing man.

We invite those who have admired Darwin to join us in a Celebration of Life at 2:00 PM on August 28th 2014 at The Lodge at MacKenzie Place, 4751 Pleasant Oak Dr, Fort Collins, Colorado.

And for those of you in Cortez, please join us in a Celebration of Life at 3:00 PM on August 30th at the Montezuma County Annex, 107 N. Chestnut Street, Cortez, Colorado. Following the 2:00 PM Burial at Cortez Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers the family requests a donation to be made to Pathways Hospice.

# Previous Events

## **Celebration of Life**

AUG **28**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

The Lodge at Mackenzie Place  
4751 Pleasant Oak Drive  
Fort Collins, CO 80525

## **Graveside Service**

AUG **30**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (MT)

Cortez Cemetery  
27440 Highway 160  
Cortez, CO 81321

## **Celebration of Life**

AUG **30**. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Montezuma County Annex  
107 N Chestnut St.  
Cortez, CO 81321

# Tribute Wall



“ Darwin M. Roe

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ I met Darwin in 1969; we both worked at High Country Development for far, far too many years. I was in a position in which I associated closely with both "upper management" and also with the men who actually did the work to build our hotels, and I remain convinced to this day that, without Dave Fisher, Darwin and Courtney Burleson, not one of those hotels would have ever seen the light of day. The office generated a lot of chaos but, as soon as Darwin walked through the door, I always muttered, "Oh, thank God, Darwin's here." He'd show up in his yellow shirt and khaki pants and everyone would SETTLE. He was always at the top of our Party List -- I can still see him, head above the crowd at Leo's, figuring out where the most fun was and then heading straight for it. He was as dependable as the day was long, loyal and honest and funny and it was a privilege to know him.

Susie - September 07, 2014 at 12:09 PM



“ Darwin was a friend, a riding companion, family and quite honestly one of the greatest people I have ever known. My life is changed, saddened and less bright knowing he is no longer on this plane....however, I will always cherish the 'sweet tea', the laughter and the share in the love of the horses. Thank you Darwin and I love you!!!!

Danielle and Andrew's Jazzman (Jazz)

Danielle and Jazz - September 03, 2014 at 01:19 PM

LI

“ Terri and Tracy, sorry to hear of your fathers passing. I remember his "straight forward" personality quite well and always enjoyed spending time with you guys when we were kids. Will keep you in thoughts and prayers~ Linda K (childhood friend)

Linda - September 02, 2014 at 09:39 AM

DB

“ Doug Bigge purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Darwin M. Roe.



Doug Bigge - August 28, 2014 at 11:43 AM

DB

“ Darwin was an extremely valued director of the West Fort Collins Water District for 29 years. He was instrumental in the growth and expansion of the District's facilities through his keen, self-taught engineering skills. He was an impressive facilitator and communicator. Darwin was a one of a kind individual and friend to all of us at the District. We will sorely miss him. Doug Bigge, and the directors and staff at the West Fort Collins Water District.

Doug Bigge - August 28, 2014 at 11:35 AM

OT

“ Sorry to hear of Darwins death. A great man. Orlo thoen

orlo thoen - August 28, 2014 at 08:28 AM

MA

“ We wish to say Thank You to your loved one for his service to our great country. Our sympathies are with your family.

*Marine Corps League Auxiliary #785  
Fort Collins, CO*

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**Marine Corps League Auxiliary** - August 27, 2014 at 05:29 PM

“ Darwin Roe  
History

*Born May 14, 1935 to Corneilus and Vera Roe. His early childhood was spent on his families homestead in Nebraska where Darwin happily terrorized his sisters Lavona, Vada, Irma, Lilly, and Lois. Often locking them into the outhouse. Darwin looked up to his older brother Darrel and occasionally Darrell could influence Darwin's wild streak.*

*The family took a leap of faith and set out for work in southern Colorado. Darwin took the trip sitting on the cars transmission cover; this resulted in some pretty serious burns. Darwin's work career began early and involved some perilous driving at a young age, his family needed his support and he did what was required. Darwin met Leora Stanley in high school and got off to a rough start with her strict, devoted father when he put his car in a ditch and had to get her father to pull them out.*

*Their young love blossomed and they made their vows to each other on June 19, 1955 Together they built a wonderful life, working hard and raising two daughters, Tracy and Terri.*

*Darwin was a patriot joining the army national guard and taking his duty seriously. He was a servant to our country from 1956 to 1996. He achieved the rank of Command Sargent Major.*

*He worked with Bucky Philips in the electrical trade which inspired him to become a master electrician and begin his own company, High Country Electric. This endeavor brought the family to Fort Collins in 1972. Determined to be a success Darwin worked hard, often away from his family for weeks at a time. HCE is still successful today under the watchful eye of his son-in-law Mike Keegan. Mike wandered into the picture in 1975 and at 15 quickly became the son Darwin hadn't had causing a sigh of relief from Terri who had been the "boy" to that point! Mike worked side by side with Darwin for over 30 years cementing a special relationship. Natalie*

*Winfrey joined the family in 1981 and her antics were an inspiration to Darwin. No one loved to laugh more than he did and Natalie was a consistent source of entertainment.*

*Mike notes that Darwin didn't have "can't" in his vocabulary, he could do anything he set his mind to. In his early days he didn't believe in buying anything but could and did build, fix, and design his own solutions. During the course of their time working together people often commented to Mike saying; "Darwin is one of the smartest men I have ever met".*

*Family was a priority for Darwin as his parents, Leora's parents, siblings, MANY nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins can attest too. The importance of family was never taken for granted! His grandchildren were a source of constant delight, he loved them with a passion not matched by any other relationship. Adam, Tyler, Mikka, Haley, Taylor, Amber, Abigail, Dakota and Charlie received the warmth of his love and the power of his conviction. Critical to Darwin's mission was imparting a sense of fun and work held together with a lot of dirt and some horse manure.*

*When Mike and Tracy announced their no guns rule Darwin promptly bought his grandchildren b-b guns for Christmas! This is just the way our world works! Every child should have someone like Darwin Roe in their life.*

*Even though Terri and her children, Haley and Taylor, lived far from Darwin or as they called him, "Granddad Roe Roe" it didn't keep him from creating memories. From building a surprise zipline in their backyard in Kentucky to spending time in Colorado sharing his player piano, riding horses and cleaning stalls, these moments will last a lifetime.*

*While family was number one it was not limited to blood relationships, Levoine Humphreys, Mike Beaird, Angie and Ron Jensen, Stacey Miller, Linda Davis, Linda Greenman and many of you here today were and always will be considered family.*

*The animal family that Darwin accumulated was equally important. He took great pleasure in the training of his dogs and horses and they rewarded his efforts with a tremendous loyalty. Chico, Fred, Barney, F.D (Continued Below...)*

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**Family** - August 27, 2014 at 02:43 PM

“ Rags, and Desi to name a few. Of course we shouldn't leave out the cow that fell in love with Darwin and somehow didn't get loaded onto the truck on sale day!

*A source of great pride and a personal challenge was Darwin's trip from steam boat springs to Durango with nothing but 3 horses, the supplies they could carry and his wits. During this time Darwin proved his stamina and quit smoking, something he was very proud of.*

*Leora passed away under Darwin's loving care in 1999. Darwin was lost without his childhood love.*

*Several years later Darwin met his second love, Maggie. Maggie and Darwin were married in June of 2009. They made a home for themselves in Pierce Co where the laughter and hard work continued. We thank Maggie for making Darwin's last year's happy ones and for the loving care she provided during his difficult illness. Their time together was too short.*

*Darwin has touched so many lives in such a positive way! Larger than life, opinionated, passionate, and always right are just a few ways to describe Darwin Roe. Tracy tells me that she has lost count of the number of people that have approached her to tell her of their respect for her father.*

*Terri's most helpful life lessons –*

*What Darwin's daughter, Terri learned from her father was a direct result of their constant involvement with animals. As a teen Terri shared Darwin's passion for horses. She attributes her breeder's cup racehorse, spreading her wings to travel and eventually creating a family of her own in Kentucky to her fathers never ending support to all things horse. It all started on his small farm in Fort Collins. Through her father's love of animals, Terri learned about unconditional love, empathy, kindness, and commitment. He was*

*known to love big dogs best, but when he met Terri's little Chihuahua named Mick; well it turns out the big tough cowboy loved all animals big and small and they loved him back.*

*Tracy's most helpful life lesson –*

*In response to a glowing work review Darwin said don't worry honey; it will be better next time. Confused she asked what he meant and he said that the people who offer criticism are the ones that care and are invested in your success. He was sure she would find someone that cared enough to criticize her some day!*

*Natalie's most helpful life lesson-*

*Darwin often said "Knockers up" to me often while teaching me to ride. It was his way of getting me to sit straight up on a horse or at a table. Along with that was his desire to embarrass me by placing a broomstick down the shirt and into the back of a boyfriend's pants if he wasn't sitting up at the table. He embarrassed my boyfriend only once, that's all it took. I cannot list the many life lessons that he taught me over the years as the list is too long.*

*Darwinism's*

*Knockers up and do you need a broomstick down your back*

*The desired result was daughter's with good posture*

*Side benefit - embarrassing your daughters*

*Be nice to dumb people*

*The desired result was helping us to consider that having patience with people that don't think like we do is important - this one was confusing since Darwin did not seem to practice this advice; as a matter of fact one of his most common declarations was "you dumb son of a \_\_\_\_\_"*

*Side benefit - making us smile as we headed out the door*

*Get back on that horse*

*This wasn't just offered when we had "fallen" off of a horse but came in handy for a bicycle wreck, a bad grade, or a broken heart.*

*The desired result was instilling in us the knowledge that it was what*

*we do next that counts and we are in charge  
Side benefit - today - getting us through the loss of such an  
influential man*

*The 6 P's - prior planning prevents piss poor performance  
Goal making us think  
Side benefit pointing out when we failed to plan in order to have a  
laugh at our expense*

*We will miss him without a doubt but will get back on our horse and  
make him proud!*

*Please join us at the Cortez Annex on Chestnut street to celebrate  
Darwin's life.*

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**Family** - August 27, 2014 at 02:40 PM

FA

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



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**Family** - August 27, 2014 at 02:16 PM

CH

“ *Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Darwin M. Roe*



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**Chrissy** - August 26, 2014 at 10:54 AM

DL

*My name is Danielle live in California, my mom is married to Darwin. For the time that I have known Darwin he was a great man and he wanted to start a life with my mom, they traveled together; something they both liked doing. Got them a house with land something my mom always wanted. Darwin worked so hard on the ranch to make it the perfect place for both of them. We are so sadden of the loss. My prayers go out to the daughters and family members of Darwin and to my mother Margaret she sure will miss you. Rest In Peace and may God be with you.*

*Danielle Lowe*

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**danielle lowe** - August 28, 2014 at 12:30 PM

HO

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family in mourning the loss of a truly exceptional spirit. No doubt Darwin will be there with a big hug, his big grin and a humorous "Darwinism" when you see him again. His pride and love for family was always very clear and he took great delight in the small and large things his children and grandchildren were involved in. Darwin was always a true joy to encounter... his enduring spirit truly a pleasure. We thank him for his service to this great country and know that he will be dearly missed. Peace be with you.*

*Jeri ~ Frank ~ Brittany*

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**Holzworth** - August 29, 2014 at 11:51 PM