



Dick Eugene Jefferies

April 10, 2022

Dick Eugene Jefferies, 65, of Fort Collins passed away on April 10, 2022 after fighting a 6 month battle with cancer.

Dick was raised by his parents Merton “Jeff” and Norma Jefferies on their family farm in Hillrose along with his brother Phil. Dick graduated from Brush High School and went on to study at the University of Northern Colorado before moving to Fort Collins to work in construction. Dick’s mind for mathematics and skills as a craftsman led him to pursue what would be a lifelong career as a contractor and master carpenter. Over the years Dick established himself as one of Fort Collins’ premiere residential builders, cultivating lasting and loyal relationships with fellow tradespeople as well as with his clients.

Outside of work, Dick dedicated his life to raising his children alongside his loving wife Linda, as well as giving back to the community. Dick worked with the PSD school board on various building projects, coached recreational sports teams, and served as board President for Camp Fire Boys and Girls.

Aside from his love for his family and career, Dick was passionate about music and fly fishing. Hailing from a long line of musicians, Dick enjoyed playing guitar as a hobby and delighted in listening to local, live music. Moreover, his passion for fly fishing led to his volunteer work as a member of

Rocky Mountain Flycasters, Trout Unlimited Colorado, developing and initiating multiple Colorado water conservation projects. To name a few, as President of RMFC and Vice President of CTU, Dick created the Coalition for the Poudre River watershed, headed the Poudre Headwaters Greenback Restoration Project, and worked with state and federal representatives to initiate Colorado water conservation and wildfire reparation efforts. The impact that Dick has made on Colorado's environment, wildlife, and citizens is tremendous.

Family and friends lead lives that have been enriched by Dick's love, wisdom, and guidance. Dick will be missed by many, but his legacy will truly live on.

Dick is survived by daughter Lindsay (Bob), and son Will. He is also survived by grandsons Lennon and Brooks; sister-in-law Koralee (Dennis); niece and nephew Kayla and Joe; daughter in spirit Allia; partner Wendy; cousin Cheryl, along with many loving cousins and incredible friends.

As Dick was known for being the life of the party, a celebration of life will be held on May 6th at 3pm, at Windsong Estate Event Center, 2901 Saddler Blvd, Severance, CO 80524.

In lieu of flowers Dick requested in pursuit of continuing critical water conservation efforts, as well as supporting his passion for the rivers and streams of Colorado, please donate to Trout Unlimited. Gifts can be sent to: Rocky Mountain Flycasters PO Box 1694, Fort Collins CO 80524-1694.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 6. 3:00 PM (MT)

Windsong Estate Event Center
2901 Saddler Blvd
Severance, CO 80524
(970) 686-9690

Tribute Wall



“ *Dick Eugene Jefferies*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Slideshow of Memories*



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - May 07, 2022 at 05:41 PM



“ *Dick was an incredible and giving husband, father, grandfather, friend and contributor to his community. He was also an amazing comedian! His wit and humor was always on point. We will miss you my friend. Thank you for taking such good care of Linda and blessing us all with your beautiful children. Love you and Godspeed.*

DKay Saucedo - May 06, 2022 at 01:50 PM

MM

“ I encourage everyone to read Dennis Cook’s reflections about the impact Dick had on the front range of northern Colorado. I remember the first time Dick made an impression on me. It was the last Rocky Mountain Flycasters meeting he presided over as President. He eloquently encouraged all of us to get involved; “Whether you had an hour a week to spare, a week a month or even more, the Chapter needs you”. He had a wonderful way of expressing the need for people at all levels of the organization. When I became President, I used those words in my first address to the Chapter and I know Mark has issued similar sentiments. There are two things I will share others haven’t. First, Dick was an educator at heart. He took many of us aside who were trying to navigate the complex and very political aspects of water law and other BIG issues impacting cold water conservation to share his knowledge earned from his many years working on these issues; some of which he learned growing up in a rural community in northeastern Colorado. Often, he would patiently repeat a lot of his knowledge for those of us that needed extra tutoring! Second, he was a networking genius and found the right people and organizations whose clientele depended on clean water and convinced them to become members and provide funding for the CPRW. He used some of these networks to rebuild the fishing pier on the Big Thompson River that had washed away in the 2013 flood. His efforts to convince knowledgeable and capable people he knew through his general contracting business saved the BTWC literally thousands of dollars in donated or reduced cost contributions of design work, materials, and labor. I have always thought nobody is irreplaceable, but Dick’s absence will be felt for a long time to come. We will all miss him greatly but be aware that his legacy will live on as efforts to improve the watersheds on the front range of northern Colorado continue. He will be one of the giants in cold water conservation whose shoulders future leaders will stand on.

Mickey McGuire

Mickey McGuire - April 22, 2022 at 04:27 PM

DC

“ Dick Jefferies was a very special man, even among other special men. He was a moral, fun loving, coyly humorous person who easily saw through phoniness. He was ethical, fair, played hard by the rules and responsibly advantaged those same rules for good purposes. Dick regularly renewed my complete respect throughout the too-brief, 14 years I had the pleasure to call him “my friend”.

I met Dick Jefferies at our Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter meeting. We hit it off and fished together up the Poudre several days later, braving a threatening lightning storm because ‘the bite was so good’. We shared our outdoors experiences and how they helped shape who we were. Trout Unlimited’s conservation mission resonated for both of us. In only several months as a member Dick joined the Chapter Board, succeeded to President the following year, and completed three terms three years as Chapter President. Dick’s previous executive experience operating large Boys & Girls clubs NoCO and SoWY district. This same community needs awareness resonated with the TU Mission and members’ interests. He rapidly became RMFC’s ‘greatest ever’ conservation advocate and get-things-done overall leader IMO, and initiated perspectives and managerial processes and that continue to flourish today.

Dick’s conservation enthusiasm and involvement never paled and following his presidency Dick eventually agreed to assume the key position as Conservation Chair, where he remained engaged instituting an aggressive conservation array of programs through 2021 and continuing beyond. These programs form the platform for RMF’s ever-growing conservation service across our ever-widening and more challenging NoCO communities. Dick was a brilliantly intelligent man with excellent intuition for achieving collaboration and support for deserving community issues. And he admirably also filled the room inspiring and urging leaders to continue developing our Rocky Mountain Flycasters Chapter.

One of Dick’s earliest and most impactful contributions as President occurred immediately following the 2012 High Park Fire. Dick

immediately recruited several other chapter activists who helped initiate relations with the Coalition for Upper South Platte River. CUSP had been formed in the late 1990's following a similar natural fire disaster. CUSP shared elements from its founding records and operations, and these gave life to immediate structure concepts enabling Dick to collaborate with a cadre of Larimer County and Fort Collins community leaders. Together they formulated beginnings of what has become an invaluable NoCO conservation organization, the Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed. Dick became CPRW's first Executive Director and after several years supported fundraising to hire a professional, full time Executive Director. CPRW's earliest merits attracted citizen approval, and following the 2013 Big Thompson Flood, served as inspiration to stimulate formation of the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition.

Locally Dick was the founding spirit and engine for many notable NoCO conservation contributions including: serving on the community group to identify abatement methods for relief from negative river flow impacts following NISP construction; encouraging influential community and Colorado Parks & Wildlife support for construction of the fish passage installed at Watson State Wildlife Area; urging NoCO community government and State & Federal Agencies to support design and replacement of the Big Thompson Fishing Pier above Drake; and lobbying Federal Agencies and government groups to approve Colorado's largest native trout restoration project across approximately 40 miles of Poudre River headwaters streams [Poudre Headwaters Project].

Dick Jefferies was a very special man, even among other special men!

--Dennis Cook

Dennis Cook - April 22, 2022 at 11:42 AM

MM

“ Please accept my condolences, and know that many, many people have you in their thoughts and prayers.

I remember when Dick was president of our local TU chapter, Rocky Mountain Flycasters, and Linda was our Membership chair. I was always very impressed with Dick's leadership of our chapter, and his deep and wide knowledge of fisheries and conservation issues.

My best memory of Dick was about 2019 I think - he led the effort (as he so often did) to finish construction of the access fishing pier on the Big Thompson River, which had been wiped out by the 2013 flood. About 5-6 of us were there that day, and I did not know what to expect. Someone said Dick will be here shortly. A few minutes later, Dick drives up and there is a huge dump truck behind him loaded with tons of gravel. Dick also made (I've no idea how) the metal structure that connects the gravel path to the actual deck of the pier. Without Dick, this project would never have been completed.

In my new position as president of our chapter, I tried very hard to soak up all the information I could over the last year from Dick, a very tall order indeed. I just hope that, following his example, I can be at least partially as successful as Dick was. I know his shoes are very hard to fill, and his passion for the outdoors, conservation, fisheries, and family were palpable to all who knew him. I am better for having known him. We will all miss him dearly.

Mark Miller, president, Rocky Mountain Flycasters.

Mark Miller - April 18, 2022 at 01:43 PM