



George B. Willson

November 3, 2019

George Bigelow Willson, 90 passed away on November 3, 2019 at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado.

He was born to Eugene and Marie Willson of Lusk, Wyoming. He grew up on a cattle ranch near Lusk that was established by his grandfather and great uncle in 1880.

He received a degree from the University of Wyoming in civil engineering, then served two years in Guam during the Korean war. After the war he taught at the University of Wyoming for seven years before taking a job in Maryland working on agricultural waste management and sewage sludge composting for the United States Department of Agriculture.

George went on to have a life long career doing groundbreaking research work in this area. He received multiple awards and traveled the world making presentations. His work continued after retiring from the government through personal consulting. As a consultant he did troubleshooting for regional governments throughout the US and for international governments abroad. He also wrote composting regulations for four states in the US.

His work has made a huge contribution to the environment around the world. In addition to this work he has given back to the University of Wyoming by

establishing the George Bigelow Willson scholarship endowment for civil engineering students.

George met his wife Lois Ann Goodman while teaching at the University of Wyoming and they were married in the Methodist Church in Casper, Wyoming on December 21, 1959. He was a loving, devoted husband and father of two children, John and Carol. The family moved to Maryland in 1965 but George and Lois returned west to Loveland, Colorado after his retirement. They returned out of a love for the land and its heritage. Here he continued his enjoyment of music through singing in the church choir. He carved wood sculptures. And he fished, even traveling to Alaska to deep-sea fish in his 80s.

George is survived by son John Willson of Cockeysville, Maryland; daughter Carol Phifer and her husband Steve Phifer of Fredericksburg, Virginia; granddaughter, Amy Krieg and her husband Peter Krieg, and George's great granddaughter Hazel Krieg, of Charlottesville, Virginia; grandson, Sam Phifer of Charlottesville, Virginia; two sisters, Phyllis Hahn of Lusk, Wyoming, June Reed of Pensacola, Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Lois Ann Willson, his sister Mary Jean Willson and his brother James Willson.

A memorial service will be held at 2 PM on November 11, 2019 at first Congregational Church of Loveland, 800 N Lincoln Ave., Loveland, CO 80537. The service will be presided over by Rev. Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Wyoming c/o Goes Funeral Care, 3665 Canal Dr. Suite E, Fort Collins, CO 80524, or to a charity of your choice.

More information about George's work can be found at: <https://uwyo.giftplans.org/index.php?cID=285>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 2:00 PM (MT)

First Congregational Church
800 N Lincoln Ave
Loveland, CO 80537

Tribute Wall



“ George B. Willson

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ I will miss George. I love Wyoming and engineering technology; that captured and held my interests in countless conversations with George. And I have to admit I ate some tasty Alaskan fish over the last few years. George and Lois touched the life of our youngest daughter with Lois' painting instructions. Those established roots in her that remain today. In fact she was at our home working on a painting this past week.

George was one of those people who added value to my own life. From sharing fishing stories to reading and discussing water treatment technology, then back to what the University of Wyoming was like long before I attended; I always enjoyed George. And he always kept my political views in check, too!

May George Rest In Peace and he find comfort in his eternal rest.
Thanks for being our friend George.

Randy Barnett - November 12, 2019 at 11:39 AM



Dear June and Phyllis, My condolences and heartfelt sorrow at the loss of your sterling brother. His career was helpful to the world. There is no higher praise.

Dolores DeCastro Welty

Dolores DeCastro Welty - November 13, 2019 at 12:37 PM