



## Robert Berling

April 11, 1931 - April 22, 2012

Bob Berling, age 81, of Windsor and Red Feather Lakes, Colorado, died April 22, 2012, in Windsor. He was born in Denver on April 11, 1931, to Reuben and Martha (Horsens) Berling. His early years were spent in the community of Edgewater, Colorado. In 1941, the family moved to a little farm on north Wadsworth Avenue near Broomfield. Bob attended the two-room country grade school known as Mandalay. He graduated from the eighth grade there with a class of four in 1945. The other students were Donna Beasley, Erma Shipley and Louie Elari. Thereafter the four commuted 6 miles to Arvada High School. Bob graduated from Arvada in 1949. After high school, he went to work as a heavy equipment operator for the Jefferson Soil Conservation District. In the fall of 1950, he began his engineering study at Colorado A&M College (now known as Colorado State University). He graduated with honors in Civil Engineering in June 1954. Shortly thereafter, he married Ruth Ann Harkness of Golden, Colorado. They divorced in 1973. In August of 1954 he was inducted into military service, serving two years with the U.S. Army, Fifth Infantry Division, in the occupation of Germany. He was stationed in Augsburg, Germany. In August 1956, he joined the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in the engineering office at the Denver Federal Center. In a short term assignment to Boulder City, Nevada, he met his mentor and special friend, Art Mitchell. In 1963, he transferred to the Loveland Office of USBR in the week of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. In 1967, he was promoted to Chief of Water Operations for the Missouri River Basin – Western

Division Power System. In 1974, he was promoted to Project Manager for USBR in Loveland. Later that year, he married Mary Ann (Kremer) Petersen of Longmont, Colorado. In 1976, he led the USBR effort in coping with the Big Thompson River flood. The Colorado-Big Thompson Project sustained one million dollars of facility damage in that event. In 1980, Bob was chosen by USBR for short term foreign assignments in Spain and Suriname, South America. In 1982 he was involved in the USBR response to the Lawn Lake flood in Estes Park. In 1982, Bob and his father Reuben purchased mountain property near Red Feather Lakes that would become known as "Reuben's Ranch." Later that same year, he received the Engineering Public Service Award by Colorado State University. With 30 years of Federal service Bob took early retirement from the USBR in 1984. Thereafter, he would work part-time on the improvement of Reuben's Ranch and serve part-time as a private consulting engineer. In 1985 and 1986, his first two consulting assignments were with USAID on the Indus River system in Pakistan. In 1987, he had the pleasure of working in Jordan with the Jordan Valley Authority. In 1989, Bob led a three-man team to Pakistan for training of irrigation officials for the American Water Foundation. He also completed construction of their current ranch house located at Reuben's Ranch. In 1990, Bob worked for the Asian Development Bank on improvement of the National Irrigation Authority for the Philippines. He also taught a short course on Irrigation Management at Colorado State University for several years. In 1991, Bob did a short term mission trip with the Resurrection Fellowship Church to help build a Bible School in Argentina. The following year he and Mary Ann would return to Argentina for another such mission assignment. In 1992, Bob served as an Expert Witness on a flood lawsuit case in Twin Falls, Idaho. That same year he would also be part of a two-man study team to evaluate the maintenance program for the old irrigation system on the Nile River in Egypt. Later that year he and Mary Ann would enjoy a personal tour of Israel with Resurrection Fellowship Church. In 1993 Bob served with the Loveland Rotary Club in their assistance program on the "Water Forever" project in Mexico. In 1994, he

conducted a training program in the western United States for 20 engineers from India for the American Water Foundation. In 1994 Bob and Mary Ann became members of the Morning Star Community Church (MSCC) in Red Feather Lakes. Later that year, Bob joined up with RAD International Consulting Firm in Fort Collins. In that position he conducted water training programs for Chinese officials in the United States and Mexico for the World Bank. In 1995, Bob and Mary Ann purchased a new winter home in Mesa, Arizona. While in that area, he worked as a Marshall at the nearby Longbow Golf Club. With 40 years of engineering service in the world, he completed his Consulting Service in 1996. In 1997, Bob began his commitment to MSCC by heading up their fundraising effort for a new church building. In 1998 he joined with other members and the MAPPERS organization in the construction of the building. Unfortunately with a faulty flue, that building burned to the ground the following winter. Gratefully, with insurance funds, the church was rebuilt by contract in 1999. In 2001, Bob became an Elder for Morning Star Church for a term of three years. He became an Elder again in 2009. In 2005, Bob and Mary Ann moved back to Windsor, Colorado. In 2006, Bob wrote a book on his professional career entitled My Water Engineering Journey. Aside from his continuing church involvement, Bob has also been a long time member of Rotary International and Gideon's International. He was President of the Loveland Rotary Club in 1984-1985. Bob is survived by a family of seven children, 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. His immediate family survivors include wife Mary Ann of Windsor; daughter Debora (Ron) Thompson of Houston, Texas; sons: Douglas Berling of Northglenn and Gary (Quin) Berling of Centennial; stepdaughters: Vickie (Steve) Jacobson of Spofford, NH, Cheryl Petersen of Loveland, Diane Petersen of Loveland, and Deb (Don) Cumpsten of Loveland. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in memory of Bob to Morning Star Community Church, PO Box 530, Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545 or to the Evangelical Free Church, 700 Pine St., in Windsor, CO 80550.



# Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Berling*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathies to the Berling family, especially Mary Ann. Bob was a friend whose smiling face was always a welcome sight when we visited together at our properties in Red Feather Lakes. We had the opportunity to share together our common faith in Jesus Christ.*

*I will miss those conversations.*

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**David and Charlene Costain** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary Ann----my condolence to you. God be with you as you work thru your grief. I often thought of you folks but knew Bob didn't like writing notes any more than me! Our golf games were efforts to behold!*

*Ernie*

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**Ernest Gilbertson** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *We knew and will remember Bob as a Christian man who cared deeply about his God and his family in Christ. We will miss him.*

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**Bob and Elsie Ross** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

W(

“ Love You And I Will Miss You Grandpa

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**Wes A Seville (Petersen)** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ Carole and I just learned of Bob's transfer from earth to heaven. I will always remember Bob's tender spirit as he led the fund raising efforts for Morning Star Community Church. We together marveled at how God was providing. He was so happy to use "Reuben's Ranch" for church activities such as baptisms and the Hobo dinner. He was a very special individual. Our prayers are with Mary Ann and the rest of the family.

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**Brian and Carole Wechsler** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Hi worked with Bob while he was the project manager at the Loveland office on Wilson. He was a wonderful manager, always kind and considerate. I started working for him in the late 70's. When he retired, we kept in touch and he helped me get a job at Western Area Power Administration here in Loveland. He had a good life. My condolences

*Rhonda Frank - (now Phillips)*

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**Rhonda Frank** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. Glad you have family close to help you get through these days and weeks ahead. Betty had emailed me about Bob's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family today.

*Your cousin, Charlotte (Kremer) Leinen*

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**Charlotte Leinen** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ Working with Bob at the BOR was always a pleasure. He always had a smile and a joke to brighten the day. He will be missed!

Paula Glick - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Although we didn't know Bob well, we appreciated his sincere love for the Lord and kindness toward us. We will miss him. Our condolences to the entire family in your loss. May God be your comfort and strength in the days ahead.

Jim and Stella Wright - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Bob was a very good friend to our family, was always there for us. He will always be missed. I will remember Your family in my prayers and will always be in my heart.

Joyce Boston - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ DEAR FAMILY  
WORDS CAN NEVER SAY WHAT THE BERLING FAMILY HAS  
MENT TO US. WE HAVE BEEN VERY BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN  
TOUCH IN A VERY SPECIAL WAY. JUST KNOW WE WILL  
CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOU AND YOURS.  
LOVE AND PRAYERS RICK AND AUDREY ROBINSON

RICK & AUDREY ROBINSON - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ *Fond memories of Bob (and Mary Ann, too, of course) from years of acquaintance = friendship within Morning Star Community Church, RFL.*

*Good times at the Reuben ranch -- Hobo dinners maybe most memorable; also baptisms there. And you-all hosting Doug and Ann Johnson on one of their earliest personal visits to MSCC.*

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**Jim & Aurelia Keefer** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ *Thank you, Bob, for all the kindness and love you showed Pat and I while we were part of your beloved Morning Star. You may not remember us, but you are in my heart and prayers.*

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**Gwen Pendergrass** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *I was sorry to learn about Bob's passing. My thoughts go out to the family for the loss of a great guy.*

*Sincerely,  
Dan Stroh*

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**Dan Stroh** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *I have very fond memories of Uncle Bob growing up. He always seemed happy and full of life to me. He was fun to be around and made me laugh. God Bless him, and all the family and friends.*

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**Pamela Harkness** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Mary Ann and family, Bob will be deeply missed here in RFL. We will always remember our "crying prophet" and his smile and hugs.

*May God give you the peace that surpasses all understanding and the comfort of being held in HIS arms during this time of sadness and grief.*

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**Mark & Denise Koehn** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

B(

“ I have always been blessed to have such a wonderful, caring family. Uncle Bob was an incredible man and fulfilled many of his dreams. I never was able to spend much time with him, with living in another state, yet we all seem so close. He will be greatly missed and my prayers are with my loving Aunt and my cousins. We love you all deeply.

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**Brenda Mendez (Rademacher)** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Dear Mary Ann,

*Marty and I send our Sincere Sympathy to you and your family. Bob certainly had a full life and helped so many people. We ask the Holy Spirit to comfort you and give you peace beyond understanding.*

*God Bless You !*

*Marty and Louise Meyer*

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**Tim & Roberta Harkness** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Bob was my high school sweetheart and we were married for 20 years. I will always cherish and I'm thankful for those years we had together. He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed. My thoughts, prayers and love are with all the family during this sad time. May God grant to all the faith and courage to meet the days ahead and provide comfort, peace and hope in the joyful expectation of eternal life together.

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**Ruth Ann Harkness** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ I had the distinct pleasure of working with and for Bob at the Bureau of Reclamation. Bob was a great mentor. He was extremely interested in growing people and helping them with their dreams and careers. He constantly searched for new and improved ways to supervise and lead with strength and compassion. He spent much time with me discussing my strengths and weaknesses and helped me be a much stronger leader. I owe much of my career and management style to Bob Berling. Bob was always proud when one he mentored moved on to new challenges. I wish his family peace and calmness. We had many talks about our faith and our love of the Lord, so I know he is singing joyfully.

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**Thaine Michie** - April 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM