



## William Dean Kruse

November 15, 1933 - December 31, 2016

William Dean Kruse of Fort Collins died of viral encephalitis on December 31, 2016. He was born November 15, 1933 in Huron, SD to Irene B. Lindekugel and Arnold J. Kruse. He served his country as a US Marine 1954-1957 and had a 30+ year career in the Navy Reserve achieving the rank of Commander.

He was a member of the Screen Actors Guild. He was in a 1958 TV movie *The 80 Yard Run* with Paul Newman and was featured in the January 19, 1959 issue of LIFE magazine as one of six Tarzans in a tree.

He moved to Colorado in 1961 because he loved the outdoors! He enjoyed playing tennis, handball, swimming, fishing, hunting, and telling stories. He loved drinking a well-made Manhattan at the end of the day! He was a worldwide traveler and claims he didn't miss a country!

He attended UCLA and the University of Denver. He earned his Master of Arts at CSU and PhD from University of Northern Colorado.

He worked for KTVR Channel 2, KBTW Channel 9, CSU, Arabian American Oil Company in Saudi Arabia, and Martin Marietta.

He created lasting friendships everywhere he went. His larger than life presence leaves a huge void in the lives of those who knew him.

He is survived by his children Jean Kruse of Miami, FL; Julia Doria (Luis) of Denver, CO; John and Tracie Kruse (Paulina, Delancey) of Littleton, CO; Joseph and Sarah Kruse (Jackson, Sawyer, Wylie) of Fort Collins, CO; and KC McKenna (Alexandria, Izzabelle, Chance) of Fort Collins, CO; and his brother Richard Kruse of Fort Mohave, AZ.

He is preceded in death by his parents as well as brother Robert Kruse and loving wife, Judy McKenna.

A celebration of life will be held at Foothills Unitarian Church on Friday, January 13, 2017 at 1:00pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to Northern Colorado Living Solutions LLC to help the financially indigent with quality assisted living; the Alzheimer's Association; or your favorite local charity.

# Tribute Wall



“ *William Dean Kruse*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Billy and I met in the 3rd grade. He acknowledged my Birthday for almost 70 years. He was a great Friend and I feel the loss deeply. Bill Markey*



**Bill Markey** - January 18, 2017 at 11:07 AM



*My Dad told wonderful stories about his adventures with you!*

**Julia Doria** - January 31, 2017 at 01:45 AM



“ *Julia Doria sent a virtual gift in memory of William Dean Kruse*



**Julia Doria** - January 15, 2017 at 01:13 PM



“ *Julia Doria lit a candle in memory of William Dean Kruse*



**Julia Doria** - January 15, 2017 at 01:09 PM

DE

“ *Bill was a cherished Shipmate and friend. He was always honorable and delightful, and my favorite memory of Bill was how---with just a look (or a quippy word) --he could set the table aroar. He was a joy to know and will be missed.*

*CAPT Jean Roberts (USN ret.)*

Dr. Jean Roberts, Ed.D. - January 12, 2017 at 10:03 AM



“ *Bill was a great friend for many, many years. During the years he and I and Don Lindley and Roger Miller drilled every month with the Navy Reserve and every Sunday of the drill weekend we would have lunch at Red Lobster. Bill's choice, of course, and we always had a good time. Perhaps most memorable was the fact that all four of us had beards during the time the Navy made it possible. I'll never forget that we went to a weekend conference somewhere and sat close to the front in the audience. The moderator made a point of recognizing us with a comment along the lines of "I see the beards are here from Denver!"*

Bob Ancell - January 11, 2017 at 07:28 PM

DE

*Having shared many of those lunches with the 4 of you, I can still grin remembering how hard we all laughed! Cherished memories.*

Dr. Jean Roberts, Ed.D. - January 12, 2017 at 10:06 AM

JD

*Thank you for sharing these memories! My Dad took great pride in his beard!*

Julia Doria - January 15, 2017 at 01:19 PM

JD

*Thank you for the stories. My Dad was proud of his beard!*

**Julia Doria** - January 16, 2017 at 11:06 AM

CH

“ *Chrissy lit a candle in memory of William Dean Kruse*



**Chrissy** - January 06, 2017 at 02:31 PM

HO

*I went to Bill and Judy's house often in 2013 and, despite the stress of Judy's illness, Bill always greeted me with a big smile and if it were late enough in the day, with an offer of a cocktail too. He was charming and gracious as well as a very handsome devil. The world needs more Bills right now so it's doubly sad to lose him. My heart goes out to his family*  
*Holly Field*

**Holly** - January 06, 2017 at 08:15 PM

JD

*Thank you, Holly! I miss them both so much!*

**Julia Doria** - January 16, 2017 at 11:11 AM