

# Fred W. Phifer

August 28, 1929 - September 15, 2010

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Fred W. Phifer passed away peacefully in Ft. Washakie, Wyoming on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 from complications of a long-term illness. He was 81.

Fred was born on April 28, 1929 in Wheatland, Wyoming, the eldest son of Wood and Margarite (Boles) Phifer. After the death of his parents and paternal grandparents (Dr. Fred Phifer and Margaret) in an automobile accident in 1935, Fred and younger brother Zack were then raised by their Uncle John Phifer alongside their cousin Tom.

Fred graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri in 1947 where he learned to fly along with other cadets. He received his law degree from the University of Wyoming Law School in 1952.

He married Mary Louise Shopbell (1929 - 1970) in 1950 in Iowa. They had four sons, Wood, Brook, Sky, and Star. After Mary's death in a car accident Fred went on to marry three more times (Virginia Boyd, Terri Thompson, and Susan Denker). He got Bo (a terrier) in the last divorce who then became his constant companion.

Fred loved to fly and to drive his cars (which he felt needed to be traded in at least once a year). He was an avid reader and loved his operas and musicals. He enjoyed golfing, good food and anything that was playing in a movie theatre anywhere within driving distance.

He practiced law for over half a century, primarily in Wheatland, but also in Colorado for a

brief stint during his fourth marriage. He served as County Attorney for Platte County from 1974 to 1978. The highlight of his career was arguing (and winning) a case for the Toltec Watershed Improvement District in front of the United States Supreme Court in 1973.



Fred W. Phifer

Survivors include four sons, Wood (Linda) of Memphis, TN, Brook (Judy) of Littleton, CO, Sky (Jan) of Lander, WY, and Star of Salt Lake City, UT; four grandchildren, Mary of Lander, WY, Nicholas of Littleton, CO, Cody of NYC, NY, and Alex (Delphine) of Lander, WY; one great grandson Sebastian of Lander, WY; cousin Thomas K. Phifer of Gilbert, AZ; brother-law

Phillip (Phyllis) Shopbell of Granite Bay, CA; sister in law Helen Lavin of Weslaco, TX; former wives, Virginia Anderson of Wheatland, WY, Terri Thompson of Washington state, and Susan Denker of Cheyenne, WY; two step children Cheryl (Woolsey) Deuel of Guernsey, WY and Scott Woolsey of Wheatland, WY. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mary, grandson Matt, and brother Zack.

A graveside service will be held on October 16, 2010 in Wheatland with a reception to follow at the Wheatland Country Club. In lieu of flowers a memorial is being set up with the Platte County Library Foundation, 904 9th St., Wheatland, WY 82201 and with the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.