



Lynn D. Parker

February 27, 1943 - August 6, 2020

Lynn Darrel Parker, 77, passed away Thursday, August 06, 2020 at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins Colorado. Lynn was born February 27, 1943 to Velma Parker of Sterling, CO, Al Parker of Loveland, CO and Stepmother Evelyn Parker of Loveland, CO. The oldest of 3 boys, Lynn attended Sterling High School lettering in Football, golf before, graduating in 1961. Lynn attended North Eastern Junior College for two years before marrying Dalene Williams of Sterling, CO, in November of 1963 and moving to Fort Collins. Although they left Sterling, Lynn's heart remained with his family homestead, 15 miles east of Sterling on the south side of highway 14 as it climbs Pawnee pass.

Having helped his grandfather on the ranch and worked construction while in Junior College, Lynn worked on the university's facilities and maintenance crew and joined a saddle club while attending college at CSU. Still an employee and student at CSU at the time of the birth of his first son, Jim, in 1967. Lynn left CSU shortly before the birth of his second son, Joe, in 1971. By the time of the birth of his third son John, in 1972, Lynn's company, Parker Construction, was in full swing. He subcontracted small projects across the field of construction becoming known for the efficiency of his earthwork as well as the outstanding quality of his cabinetry, carpentry, drywall, and concrete. Following the Big Thompson Canyon flood of 1976 Lynn focused on small civil projects in the canyon, doing earthwork and pouring retaining walls so that residents could return to their homes. Lynn also set up a machine and welding shop alongside his cabinet shop in Fort Collins. Around his other projects Lynn specialized in welding and machine jobs that other shops could not do economically. Early on, Lynn and his friend Lary Harris built their first two spec houses. By 1975 Parker Construction was contracting to build about one house a year, around Lynn's other work, over a twenty year period.

While Lynn built houses, he also built a solid reputation in the fields of structural, mechanical and civil engineering. By the time his fourth son and youngest child, Scott, was born in 1977, Lynn had had become the guy to call for difficult projects. His skill-set attracted the attention of entities like the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Fort Collins water treatment facilities, and the various regional raw water supply companies. Lynn was

seriously injured in 1983 while working on his ranch. This caused him to take a break from field and residential work, which gave him the time to pursue a few technical projects. He contracted to develop a laser egg counter and, later, a laser elk counter for the division of wildlife. This work pushed the boundaries of civilian technology at the time. Lynn opened another shop for hydraulic repair and controls in 1985 and continued to offer welding and machine shop services. Lynn left the housing industry in the 1990s shifting his focus to the water infrastructure industry.

While in college, Lynn had ridden the length of most of the northern Colorado irrigation ditch roads and natural water courses on horseback. He had developed a rare understanding of the overall system and it affected his career path. His Company, Parker Construction and Machine, contracted with public and private water agencies solving problems and updating water infrastructure. Lynn worked on hydraulic projects all over the North Platte Basin and went as far south as the Sanchez Reservoir on the Rio Grande Drainage. Every project is a monument to a rare and capable man who tried his best to accommodate his work to the existing infrastructure and who knew best when and how to repair or replace it.

Outside of work, Lynn loved his wife and family above all else. As a young father he enjoyed taking his family camping, jeeping and fishing in the mountains. When his health began to suffer he still planned events with his brothers and their families on his ranch every summer while their kids were still young. Lynn prided himself in having his kids with him on the ranch and on his projects. He helped his sons learn to think, lead, and develop the grit to do the hard jobs at work and face the hard times in life. He did the same for countless other young people over the length of his too short life and 6 decade career. Lynn Parker will be missed.

Lynn was preceded in death by his Grandson Devin Parker of Fort Collins, CO, his youngest brother Tom Parker, of Reno NV, and his younger Brother, Gary Parker of Colorado Springs, CO. Lynn is survived by his step mother Evelyn Parker of Loveland, CO, his wife, Dalene Parker of Wellington, CO, their four sons, Jim Parker of Pierce, CO, Joe Parker of Douglas, WY, John Parker Of Laporte, CO and Scott Parker of Firestone, CO, 6 grandchildren, and his cat.

Lynn Lost his life to cancer after a long and difficult fight, which he kept mostly to himself. Barely able to get out of bed, he went to work on Tuesday morning and passed away after thirty four hours in the hospital at 9:12 pm the following Thursday August 06. Lynn Parker never quit.

Larimer County Public Health was kind enough to grant a variance for Lynn's funeral but instructed that we not include the time or place of the service in Fort Collins.

Comments



“ One of a kind... He was a true spirit, kind of heart and always sincere in thought!!

He IS missed all ready.

A TRUE FRIEND....

Steve S

steve Sanders - September 29, 2020 at 09:46 AM



“ Lynn was always kind and helpful.

Mike Blehm - September 25, 2020 at 08:38 AM



“ Lynn was one of a kind in all the right ways. I had not seen him since he moved from his “kingdom” on Wood St. He is one of those men that you will always remember. Sad he is gone. A whole bunch of knowledge just left the planet.

Tom Pogue - September 21, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ Thank you

d'Alene parker - September 24, 2020 at 07:11 PM



“ I met Lynn in the late 1990s when I went to his shop in Fort Collins to borrow an accumulator charging apparatus from him. We were both in the hydraulic control business, but in different marketplaces. Lynn was focused on the hydraulic and mechanical control of water discharge structures for municipal water dams and I was building valve controls for steam and gas turbine engines. Over the years I found any opportunity I could think of to go visit with Lynn at his rough and tumble shop at the North end of Wood Street in Fort Collins. I was always trying to get Lynn to collaborate with me on some of my industrial control projects. Later, in around 2008, I talked Lynn into building the head gate and overflow structure for a pond that we built at Kyle's Place, our beautiful property on Ingleside Rd. To my surprise, Lynn agreed. This was probably the smallest thing Lynn built and I cherish that structure and his hand drawn design sketches as works of art by a fine fellow and a great engineer.

-Charlie Cote
Los Osos, CA

Charlie Cote - September 21, 2020 at 06:46 PM



“ Thank you! Dalene

Dalene Parker - September 24, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ I had the unique opportunity to work for Lynn my first year out of high school. He inspired me to go to CSU and study Construction Management. That was over 30 years ago. I have worked in 40+ states on projects in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and I can say without a doubt, I have NEVER met a sharper or more innovative individual in all my years in the business than Lynn Parker.

And I have never met a better man either.

You will be missed Lynn.

Prayers to your family.

Jay Krist - September 21, 2020 at 03:53 PM



“ Thank you! Dalene

Dalene Parker - September 24, 2020 at 07:13 PM



“ I had the privilege of working with Lynn on several water projects. He was instrumental in building and installing the majority of the head gates for the City and County of Fort Collins. Everyone knew if Lynn Parker did the job, it was done right. I will miss my association with Lynn as a friend as well as a mentor. May his family have peace with the memories he left them of his extraordinary life. Thoughts are with you during this difficult time. John and Diane Moen

John Moen - September 20, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ Lynn was always kind and helpful.

Mike Blehm - September 24, 2020 at 10:02 AM