



C. Buford Plemmons

November 29, 1922 - August 7, 2013

C. Buford Plemmons was born November 29, 1922 in Comanche County, Oklahoma to Lucile Edwards and David Plemmons. He left us on March 25, 2013. Buford was fond of telling stories like riding a 'ginny' mule to his one-room, Rock Creek Elementary School, and later Central High School. In 1939, with \$5 in his pocket, he left for Ada Oklahoma, to live with his grandmother and attend East Central University ECU. In early 1943 he joined the Navy, and attended Midshipman's school at Northwestern University in Chicago, graduating as an Ensign. On May 15, 1944, while home on leave, he married his childhood sweetheart, Loretha Lori Stacy near Lawton, Oklahoma before shipping out as Executive Officer on LST 1032 headed for the Pacific theater. His LST was part of the landing force at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Buford was later active in the Colorado National Guard. After the war he completed his education at Oklahoma State and earned an MA in Education from Colorado Teachers College now UNC in Greeley, and did post-graduate work at Columbia and CSU. In 1966 he became the Director of Federal Programs for Poudre School District and led one of the earliest Head Start Programs in the state. He was active in the First United Methodist Church, in Kiwanis, serving as Poudre Golden K Club President and District Governor. In 1996 Buford was recognized with the Community Builder of the Year award by the Fort Collins Service Clubs. He is credited, along with Bob Everett, with leading the effort to establish the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. Buford loved golf, fishing and woodworking and built a family cabin in Gould,

Colorado. He is honored and loved by his family, including his daughter Rita Bee, son and daughter-in-law Stacy and Nancy Plemmons, all of Fort Collins, and son and daughter-in-law Kerry and Gail Plemmons of Denver, plus grandchildren Beth Bee and partner Mark Perhacs, Kelli Bee, Laura Rickhoff, Kris Plemmons, Ryan Plemmons, and his sister, Maurita Woods and sister-in-law Imogene Taliferro. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday at the Fort Collins First United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the First United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Poudre Golden K Club, or the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado, in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524.

Tribute Wall

CG

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Carolyn and Jane Goodwin - August 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ *Buford was a friend of my mom's and I will always remember his kindness.*

Kacy Thompson - August 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KK

“ *"You all" are in my thoughts and prayers. Remembering the special times keeps our loved ones with us forever. Treasure these wonderful memories each day. My dad, Ray Kruse considered Buford one of his best friends. They had many great times together. Take care. Be safe and happy.*

Karen Kruse-Shirey - August 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Stacy and Family, I am sorry about the delay in my response to your Dads passing. I just saw the post. By Pastor Steve to the Men's Friday morning breakfast group. That's where I first met your Dad. He was to become a mentor to me as I went thru adjusting to Ft. Collins when I moved her. A great friend and loving man. I will always remember him and his great skills of a good listener. I share in your loss. I lost my own Dad on the 22 of March of this year. God Bless his memory along with that of my Dad as your father was my Colorado Dad if you will . John L. McMillen*

John McMillen - August 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ I worked with Buford when his office was in the Administration Building. What an amazing man who treated everyone with respect. I loved his stories and his wonderful laugh. Sincere sympathy to Buford's family.

Betty Englert Backlund - April 30, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ A brief candle; both ends burning
An endless mile; a bus wheel turning
A friend to share the lonesome times
A handshake and a sip of wine
So say it loud and let it ring
We are all a part of everything
The future, present and the past
Fly on proud bird
You're free at last. ~ Charlie Daniels

The Roys - April 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Dear Plemmons Family, Buford gave me the opportunity to work for him in the PSD Federal Programs office in 1980. I was young and didn't have all the qualifications he was looking for, but he took a chance on me. This led to a rewarding 30 year career with the school district. I feel very fortunate to have started with someone like Buford. He cared about the kids and valued the people who worked with them, and for him. My husband Joe and I still have the Barney Jensen painting with the custom handmade frame he gave to us as a wedding gift, and the little wooden rocking chair he built for our son, as a baby gift. He was a very special man. With my sympathy, Lynn Sweeney

Lynn Sweeney - April 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ Dear Rita, I was passing Ft. Collins and a relative gave me your Father's Obituary. I am so sorry as I remember you were very close. You lent me your wedding gown 37 yrs ago. Just want you to know I care.

Karen Walchle - April 07, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I think the world of all the veterans I have had the chance to interview, but some stick out above the rest. Buford was one of them. I feel privileged and honored to have known him. He was a great man. Brad Hoopes N. Colorado Veterans History Project

Bradley Hoopes - April 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Buford was one of my father, Ray Kruse's, best friends. They shared many life adventures together over the years. Now, they can continue to share more adventures while watching over us. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Remembering the special times keeps our loved ones with us forever. Treasure these wonderful memories each day. Be safe and take care of yourselves. Karen Kruse-Shirey

Dr. Karen Kruse-Shirey - April 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JK

“ Rita and Family, Buford was always special in my eyes. When I started teaching Headstart, he was active in getting a "modular" for us. He put his whole heart in getting it turned into the best classroom at Laurel. I was lucky to meet Rita and I know she shares the same spirit. I'll miss seeing his positive smile! I'm thinking of your family.

Janet Kask - April 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ I have many fond memories of Buford and his community work with my mom, Fran Thompson.

Kacy Thompson - April 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ "Kind, compassionate visionary" are my 3 words for Buford Plemmons. As Kathy Wallis, I returned in 1971 from a year-long Poudre-School-District leave of absence. I had depleted my savings account and faced a second mortgage due date. Without sufficient equity, I was rejected for a bank loan. Through the kind efforts of Marlene and Dean Duncan, I was granted both a bank loan and a summer job working with Bufford. I received a deeper appreciation of Bufford's role as Director of one branch of PSD. His far-reaching educational programs, both within the district as well as the state, were impressive. Representative Randy Fischer and I send sincere condolences to family and friends as well as our appreciation for the life of the visionary who touched so many lives. Kathy Fischer

Kathy and Randy Fischer - April 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Buford was my very, very favorite administrator! He would go out of his way to help us do our jobs. He was fair, consistent, and helpful--I consider myself lucky to have been one of his employees. The world needs more people like him--he will be missed!

Elaine Spencer - April 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Rita and family, I am so sorry for your loss! Your dad was a special person! I always loved hearing his stories. Now him and your mom are partying together again. Know I am thinking of you and praying for all of you! Love you, Tammie

Tammie Hanawalt - April 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WL

“ We adored Buford! Reading his obituary, I Barbara realized he and my dad went to the same college! How fun! He was always kind and interested in everyone and we loved that about him. As a husband, father and friend, he found a place in the hearts of many people. That is a great and enviable spot that the rest of us can work to emulate!

William and Barbara Loy - April 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ I graduated from Swink High School in 1955 while Mr. Plemmons was Superintendent of Schools. He was one of the angels in my life because he loved people and did so much for those whose lives he touched. Thank you, God, for Mr. Plemmons. The Japanese Community in and around Swink are indebted to him for his loyalty and support enabling the Japanese the use of the gymnasium and school. I shall miss his annual Christmas Cards through these many years. I'll always remember his smile and his kindnesses to me and the Kusuno family.

Jean Kusuno Andrews - March 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ I just seen the Coloradoan and was shocked to see Buford's name, I started working for the school District in 1972 and that's where I met Buford, I had never been so welcomed to the headstart program like I was by Buford, I always thought of him even though I hadn't seen him for quite some time, but never ever forgot someone that treated me so kind as Buford did. What a wonderful person and he had to have a wonderful family. There comes a time when we have to say GOODBYE to all our love ones and hope they all remember this awesome person. God Bless this family. Love Ida

Ida Gonzales - March 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ *Buf was a good friend, and was a helpmate when I became the Principal of the old "La Porte Ave. School". He was always available to help, advise and talk to. I'll miss him. Bill Bruss*

WILLIAM W BRUSS - March 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss. I know how difficult this time can be. What helps me doing times like this is the scripture found at John 11:11, 14-44, which was recorded for our benefit, that there is going to be a resurrection of the dead. Jesus proved this when he resurrected Lazarus. Read the scriptures at John 11: 11 and John 11: 14-44. May you find comfort in these scriptures?*

James & Sandra McDonald - March 31, 2013 at 12:00 AM