



Edward Warren Yonker

August 5, 1925 - December 22, 2014

Edward Warren Yonker went home to be with the Lord Monday December 22, 2014. He was born August 5, 1925 in Marion, Nebraska to Harry F. Yonker and Myrtle Wolverton Yonker. Ed was the youngest of three boys and was the last surviving member of his immediate family. He grew up in the small town of Marion and graduated from Marion High School. In 1943, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the United States Navy and completed his basic training in Farragut, Idaho. He spent most of his enlistment as a fireman in the Pacific theater on the aircraft carrier USS Shangri-la.

Back in Nebraska after the war, he met Betty Housley. He followed her family to Oregon and married Betty in St. Helens May 29, 1947. Shortly after their wedding they relocated to Fort Collins, Colorado, where they started their family. Ed and Betty had three children, Beverly, Larry and Richard.

One of Ed's first jobs in Fort Collins was with Valley Venetian Blind Company. Ed purchased the business at 246 Linden Street in 1949. Business was slow in winter and during the fall months of 1952-1954, he worked in the sugar beet campaigns as fireman and engineer for the steam locomotive that carried carloads of beets from the yard to the factory. The job was a dream come true for him, as he'd always wanted to be a locomotive fireman.

Ed applied to the Fort Collins Fire Department and was hired in 1955. In 1965,

he became Chief following Chief Cliff Carpenter's death in the State Dry Goods fire June 28, 1965. Ed was extremely proud of the Fort Collins Fire Department - their mission, their ethics, and the strong relationships formed there. He retired from the FCFD in 1976.

Post-retirement, the Yonker family and friends built a cabin in Glacier View Meadows. Ed was interested in exploring various job opportunities, and worked selling fire equipment, as a bailiff in Larimer County District Court, and for Hospital Services (HSI), a local health insurance company. He retired a second time in 1987 and he and Betty purchased a motor home and spent four years traveling around the USA.

Always a fireman, he became involved in the Glacier View Meadows Volunteer Fire Department in 1989, helping to form the fire district there and serving as president of the Fire Board for 15 years. During his tenure, a mill levy was passed and a new fire station was built. Another of Ed's passions was restoring "retired" FCFD fire equipment and working to establish a Fort Collins Fire Museum. He wrote, and had locally published, *The History of the Fort Collins Fire Department: The First 100 Years*.

Ed was very active in the Fort Collins community, including the Boy Scouts, Jaycees, Elks and the American Legion. He and Betty were members of the First United Methodist Church for many years. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1997, dancing with family and friends; Betty died later that year.

In January 2003, Ed married Patricia A. Hughes of Fort Collins in Maui, Hawaii. They were members of Timberline Church where they volunteered and were involved with Primetimers. Together they enjoyed traveling, spending time at the Glacier View cabin, and volunteering together at the Fort Collins Welcome Center.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brothers, Floyd and Merle, and his wife, Betty.

He is survived by his wife, Pat, his children, Bev Hagman (Karl), Larry Yonker (Kim), Rich Yonker (Caroline), six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, step-children Laurie Ronholdt (Chad) and Tom Hughes (Margarita) and their children.

A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday at Timberline Church. A Graveside Service with Military Honors and a reception will immediately follow at Resthaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Fort Collins Fire Museum Foundation in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Bohlender Funeral Chapel
121 W. Olive Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524
(970) 482-4244
<https://www.bohlenderfuneralchapel.com/>

Funeral Service

DEC **27**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Timberline Church
2908 Timberline Rd. Fort Collins, CO US 80525
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Cemetery

DEC **27** (MT)

Resthaven Memory Gardens Cemetery
8426 S. Highway 287 Fort Collins, CO US
Fort Collins, CO

Tribute Wall

PY

“ We were so sorry to hear of Ed's passing. He was a wonderful man, friend, and cousin who will be greatly missed. We will miss seeing him at the Yonker family reunions. We were so glad to be able to come to his 85th birthday party. He was so surprised to see the firetruck come by. What a memory that we were able to share with the family.

Our prayers are with all of you. Phil and Norma Ylnker

Phil & Norma Yonker - December 30, 2014 at 03:57 PM

KB

“ Rich, Caroline and family,

Our prayers are with you for your comfort, peace and healing over the loss of your father. We lost a mother in Dec. a few years ago and had her service the day after Christmas. We know how hard it can be during the holidays and yet how wonderful to know they spent Christmas in heaven. Love and God's Blessings as you celebrate the life of a wonderful man. We know you will honor him well.

Sam and Karen Blanco

karen Blanco - December 26, 2014 at 05:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Edward Warren Yonker.



December 26, 2014 at 09:55 AM

RA

“ *Rich and Caroline,*

My thoughts are with you during this most difficult time. God bless you and your family with memories of your father!

Rick Allnutt

Rick Allnutt - December 25, 2014 at 11:09 AM

JH

“ *Jim & Claudia H. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Edward Warren Yonker.*



Jim & Claudia H. - December 25, 2014 at 02:27 AM

SR

“ *Really sorry to hear of your loss. We lost dad in '92 while I was still in the Air Force. It takes awhile to get back on an even keel. Remember the good times, that always helped me.*

Stan Ross

Stan Ross - December 24, 2014 at 11:17 PM

SN

“ *Stan, Maxine, Noreen purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Edward Warren Yonker.*



Stan, Maxine, Noreen - December 24, 2014 at 11:54 AM

TM

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I bought the house on 324 Pearl St from Ed about 8 years ago, and rented the same house from him for 8 years before I purchased it. Ed was such a sweet and caring man. I was so sad to hear of his passing. He will be greatly missed and never be forgotten.

Tammy Mogan - December 24, 2014 at 10:30 AM

IS

“ Irma, Monika, and Arnie Schliewack purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Edward Warren Yonker.



Irma, Monika, and Arnie Schliewack - December 24, 2014 at 09:39 AM

PK

“ I remember Chief Yonkers well and suspect a number of people will pause and remember him fondly as the read of his passing. My sympathy to the family for their loss.

Patrick Kelly - December 24, 2014 at 07:16 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Edward Warren Yonker.



December 23, 2014 at 04:49 PM