



## Frederick John Yates

June 26, 1957 - May 14, 2021

Our brother Fred Yates passed away on May 14, 2021 in Fort Collins, Colorado from chronic medical conditions. He was born in Laramie, Wyoming on June 26, 1957 to Frances Bell Yates and John Yates. He grew up in Laramie and graduated from the University of Wyoming in 1983 with a degree in photojournalism and public relations.

His love of photography was developed at an early age using a Brownie camera and taking more than a few rolls of film of the engine of our mom's Impala station wagon. His love of people and their stories came from his childhood in Laramie, in the days when children could roam the town, visiting with the store owners and residents.

In college, Fred was photo editor of the University of Wyoming's student newspaper, The Branding Iron. His first job following graduation in 1983 was as a photojournalist with the Wyoming Tribune Eagle. During his 11 years there, he interviewed and photographed politicians and residents of Wyoming, many of whom became lifelong friends. He captured the history of Wyoming with his pictures of the old locomotive steam engines running through Cheyenne, of the faces of the rodeo clowns at Cheyenne Frontier Days, of the signs and buildings in Cheyenne, and of the 1988 Yellowstone forest fires when the Old Faithful Inn nearly burned down. He later worked at the Laramie County Community College as an editor and photojournalist, where he met his

lifelong friend, Jan Mansfield. He subsequently moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and Boston, Massachusetts before returning closer to his roots in Fort Collins, Colorado. In Fort Collins, Fred worked for the USPS as a mail carrier. He was able to snap a few pictures of his route in the snow, of the mailbox with the Christmas thank you gift to the mail carrier, and of a mail truck filled with letters and packages.

Fred was preceded in death by his mother, his sister Pam, his best friend and brother Steve; his walking companions, two Bichon Frise dogs named Toby and Joey, whom he referred to as 'his kids'.

He is survived by his sisters Andrea Kasper of Des Moines, Iowa; DeEtte Yates of Fort Collins; Nadine Westley of Colville, Washington; brother Charles Yates (Anita) of Cody, Wyoming; and numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, Ft. Collins. Condolences may be sent to [bohlenderfuneralchapel.com](http://bohlenderfuneralchapel.com).

Donations in Fred's name can be made to NPR, his favorite radio station where he often volunteered to answer phones during its pledge drives, or a charity of choice.

We will celebrate Fred's life this summer with a family remembrance in Cody, Wyoming. We will scatter Fred's ashes at nearby Heart Mountain, where he will join his mother, sister and brother.

Our family gives a heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Medical Center of the Rockies, whose concern was always for Fred's comfort during his final days.

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ Fred,

*You were my dads best friend and worked with him at the newspaper so many years ago. You were like My Uncle and I loved you like family. I remember growing up and calling you Uncle Fred and getting to walk Toby and Joey and house sit for you when you left town for vacation. I also remember taking care of your cat patches as well. When my dad passed away in January you reached out to me and I always appreciated that and you even took the time to go on my wife and I's cruise wedding in 2010. I will never forget you singing at karaoke on the cruise it's the end of the world as we know it by your favorite band REM. Thank you for always loving me like I was your nephew and making me feel appreciated. Thank you for being my friend and like family to me. I just know you are up in heaven with my dad having a good time. You were a special friend to me and you are will be dearly missed. I will never forget you! Love you Uncle Fred!*



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**Christopher Smith** - June 07, 2021 at 01:05 AM

DY

*Thank you for sharing your memories of my brother Fred. It means a lot to hear from his lifelong friends. I remember him talking often about your dad and the wedding cruise, although I didn't know about the karaoke singalong. That would be a video worth seeing. Thank you.  
DeEtte Yates*

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**DeEtte Yates** - July 17, 2021 at 05:22 PM

CS

*Fred was a wonderful friend and family member to me. I will always love him for his kind heart and he always made me feel Included and appreciated. I'm so sorry for your loss ... if I remember right I met you several times way back in the day when I was just a little kid. When I found out about Fred's passing I was devastated I endured so much loss the past year. Sending you love and healing. I will always keep Fred's legacy alive!*

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**Christopher Smith** - August 16, 2021 at 12:00 PM

CF

“ *My condolences to all who love Fred Yates, friends and family alike.*

*I met Fred in high school and had the good fortune to receive invitations to Homecoming and Prom from Fred, resulting in two fun-filled nights and a lifetime friendship. We spent a considerable amount of time in his restored pick-up, Annabelle, cruising Grand Avenue and grabbing a cheeseburger and/or fries at Scotti's. I learned to appreciate Fred's kindness, interest in a story (especially one that could be captured best with a great photo), and his sense of humor and the smiles it invoked.*

*We both attended the University of Wyoming where our paths continued to cross. We had the same advisor, Robert C. Warner, who had a great appreciation for stories told in black-and-white photos, and he would frequently present photos Fred had taken, developed, and printed as examples of photos to be appreciated. I can still see many of the images he took in my mind's eye even though decades have passed since seeing them originally. Fred awakened in me a lifelong appreciation of photography and photographers.*

*Every once in a while over the decades since our high school and college days I'd get a catch-up call from Fred to share our adventures and the twists and turns of life and I'm saddened to know I've had the last of those calls from someone who had a huge impact on my life and happiness. Fred was a stalwart friend!*

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**Cindy Fester** - May 26, 2021 at 02:26 PM

RS

“ Like so many, I cannot believe I won't get that random phone call from Fred, the one in which an hour passes but you swear it has been only a few minutes. Professionally, Fred has been "following" me. I first met Fred when he was in J school at UW, and I was doing PR and teaching journalism at LCCC. I was always the one taking students to national Society of Professional Journalists conventions, and Fred would travel with my students. Then he went to the WTE where I had been prior to LCCC, and, yes, he followed me to LCCC. There he often traveled with me and my students again. But all along this journey of life, he gave back to the profession. My students always enjoyed his presentations especially the story of covering the Yellowstone fires. Yet Fred will always be simply friend to me.

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**Rosalind Schliske** - May 24, 2021 at 10:53 AM

KB

“ Fred,

*I can't begin to express how glad I am that I had the pleasure to know you and become your friend during your time in Louisville. Working together in such a demanding environment was tough, but you always knew just the right thing to say to ease the tension, change the mood or bring a bit of levity to the situation. We joked about you being our unofficial "Social Director" for the department, but it was so true. Everyone there genuinely loved you Fred and to this day they all still speak so fondly of you. You personally helped me navigate some pretty rough waters there too, and I'll be forever grateful for that.*

*Music was always a central theme in our friendship. We shared a lot of the same musical tastes. You were constantly helping me expand my horizons by introducing me to new artists and maybe some I had missed or overlooked along the way. I hope I was able to reciprocate just a little bit by tossing some classic bluegrass tunes your way. This is something that we continued doing during your move to Boston and back out West to Fort Collins. When that text tone went off and I saw your name pop up I knew one of three things was going to happen:*

*- I was about to hear some great music*

*- I was about to laugh at one of your stories peppered with that trademark Fred Yates sense of humor*

*- I was about to see a beautiful random photo of something that caught your eye as you traveled daily along your way*

*I'm going to miss those texts. I'm going to miss our phone calls to catch up. I'm going to miss those zany voice mails you'd leave me - the ones where you would on the spot make up an elaborate story and try your hand at impersonating everyone from our former Brit boss to random heads of state.*

*Simply put Fred, I'm going to miss you. I'm going to miss you a lot.  
Love you brother!*

*Kevin B.*

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**Kevin B.** - May 24, 2021 at 12:53 AM

KS

“ *I am so grateful I got to know Fred. His genuine kindness, unconditional love, enthusiasm for life, and mischievous laughter made the world a better place. Fred – you were loved and will be missed.*

*Kristen*

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**Kristen Schockett** - May 21, 2021 at 06:53 AM

JM

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



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**Junge Mark** - May 20, 2021 at 05:50 PM

NA

*Proud to be on your tribute wall, Fred, and thank you to whoever found this photo and posted it. It was taken at Frontier Days, probably 1988 or 1989, when we both worked for the Wyoming Eagle with Kerry and Cory Drake, Jim Angell, Kirk Knox, and many many other great people. Oh God, just writing these names brings back strong memories.*

*I'm a Midwesterner through and through, but my three years in Cheyenne in the late 1980s are indelible in my mind and my heart, largely because of you, Fred.*

*Thank you, THANK YOU!!! for your huge, huge heart, your remarkable talent as a photojournalist, and for sharing so much of it with me.*

*You taught me the ropes ... about Cheyenne, about Wyoming and its incredible beauty and spirited citizens, about journalism - Western style, about W. Eugene Smith, ... and so much more.*

*I have always been grateful to have known you. Always will be. 🌹*

*Nanette*

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**Nanette** - August 04, 2022 at 03:24 PM

LW

*“ I was proud and thankful to have Fred in my life for over 20 years. He was one of the truly good people this world had to offer. I'll always remember his good cheer and his enthusiasm for life and the people in it. I wish Jeff and I had been able to make another trip to see you at Mojeaux's. Peace and love, dearest Fred.*

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**Lynn Walthall** - May 20, 2021 at 05:16 PM

JG

“ Dear Fred,

*Thanks for the miles of walks and talks while we were at VMS in Louisville. I still remember the day you bought that brand-new VW Beetle after you traded in your super-nice Honda Pilot that you used to let me drive (and had promised to sell it to me! LOL). But the Beetle was so cool, so you drove to lunch for the next solid month!*

*We wanted to bring you back here for Derby or Abbey Road (and tear up your return ticket), and then COVID hit.*

*The sense of loss is palpable, Fred, you had a singular mission to bring joy to everything you did, and surely that place needed it: "Hey, what's going on in here?", as you'd enter a room with that sly smile. More than once in a while, I try to remember what Fred would do to lighten the load, and maybe for a moment, you're still here.*

*Gonna miss you bad, buddy.*

JG3

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**JG3** - May 19, 2021 at 02:37 PM

BP

“ *I had the wonderful fortune of befriending Fred during his time in Louisville, working with him for seven years. He wasn't just our friend, we all looked up to him for his kindness and joyous wisdom. The world is less without Fred in it, but all the better for him having been here.*

*Thank you, Fred.*

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**Bruce P.** - May 18, 2021 at 10:03 PM

ML

“ I'm so thankful that the fates blew in such a way as to bring Fred to Louisville for the years he was here. Fred's inexhaustible cheer and kindness brightened my days through some turbulent years. He was serious when he needed to be, but he more often than not reminded me to that I could let go and have fun. He was a joy to know and will be sorely missed. Rest easy, my friend.

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**Mike Lewis** - May 18, 2021 at 09:30 PM

GI

“ Fred you came into my life to teach me how gentle a soul can truly be. I worked with Fred at the post office the last couple years and that man was a sweetheart. He will forever be missed by two of his favorite girls at the office. I know ur in a much better place my friend. Love you and I will truly miss ur phone calls and our chats.

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**Gina** - May 18, 2021 at 07:12 PM

CB

“ Fred, my friend, I am so sad that you are now gone. Thanks for your friendship and for the years we got to work together at LCCC. I am sorry we kept putting off getting together these last few summers. Rest in peace.

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**Charles Bohlen** - May 18, 2021 at 05:12 PM



“ I worked with Fred in Cheyenne. He and I became friends on the first day we met. He was always my friend - good days and bad! He is missed!

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**Jim Headley** - May 18, 2021 at 03:31 PM

JK

*I met Fred when I moved to Cheyenne in 1991 to work for The Associated Press. It was a tough place to get to know people, but Fred was a good friend. He and my now-husband, Dave, knew each other. He and Dave talked photography and Fred and I talked about a lot of things: journalism, politics, music. He was always interested in leaning new things, hearing new music, meeting new people. I can't believe I won't get any more seemingly out-of-left-field texts from him. He was unique and a special person. My condolences to his family.*

Judith Kohler - May 19, 2021 at 08:06 PM

SB

*I am so sad that Fred has left us but I am happy that he is now at rest . I knew Fred during his years as a photographer for the Eagle in Cheyenne in the 1980s and at times he seemed like a member of the family. He frequently accompanied my daughter as they gathered information about local news events and they often stopped off at my home for a snack or shared in our dinner on their way back to the office to prepare information for the next day's edition of the newspaper. This seemed very special because sometimes we found out the breaking news stories before anyone else, even the local TV station evening news. Fred had a special skill in finding just the right photo to illustrate life in Cheyenne. He left us a valuable legacy - photographs of ordinary people as well as well photos of people in leadership roles. I am happy that I had an opportunity to call Fred my friend and grateful that he shared some of life with our family. I treasure the photographs that he shared with us.*

Sharon Bollinger - May 20, 2021 at 03:33 PM



*Rest my friend . . . I met Fred in our early teen's which resulted in some great times that would have considered . . . questionable at least by our Mom's if they had known, which we both were sure they did. Fred's Mach 1 was the envy of many us, he tried to teach me to restore a 1956 Chevy truck, a huge failure for me but Fred never gave up nor forgot to laugh at my lack of mechanical skill. We lost touch after High School, but enjoyed his photojournalism for many years. He was one of the true "Good Guys" in life that make an impact regardless of geographic proximity. Be in comfort, rest knowing the significant impact you made on so many here on earth, enjoy my friend. Bob Waddell II*

Bob Waddell - May 25, 2021 at 12:56 PM