



Murray Francis Morgan

June 18, 2014 - June 18, 2014

Murray Morgan, age 92, of Fort Collins passed away gently and peacefully, June 9 at Clare Bridge of Fort Collins. He was born in Laramie, Wyoming, on January 10, 1922, the eldest child to Frank J. and Myrtle Scott Morgan. Murray was proud of his Wyoming and Irish heritage. His grandfather emigrated from Ireland and came West with the U.S. Army Cavalry in 1873 and settled in Laramie. Murray graduated from Laramie High School in 1940 and attended the University of Wyoming. In 1942, he married Marian Hall Morgan in Laramie and had two sons. Marian and Murray divorced in 1967. In 1977, he married Helen Wich of Fort Collins, who predeceased him in 1995. Murray loved to travel and was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed boating, fishing, and hunting. However, his true passion was music; he was a jazz saxophonist and an accomplished dancer, a man who genuinely favored the sounds of the "Big Band" era. Fortunately he passed down his love of music and dancing to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. At the young age of 90, he loved to dance with his great granddaughters. Murray will be most remembered by friends and family for his brilliant sense of humor, gentlemanly manner, and devoted attention to those he loved and befriended. He will be missed by all who knew him. Aside from possessing numerous talents, most importantly, Murray was a proud patriot. While serving as a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot during WWII, he participated in several South Pacific campaigns that included flying combat missions in the Solomon Islands, South Philippines and Luzon. Following WWII, Murray once again answered

his country's call by piloting over 100 aerial missions in direct support of the Berlin Airlift. He was subsequently awarded the Air Medal for this meritorious achievement. At the time of his discharge in October 1949, Murray was a B-29 pilot with the 97th Bomb Group. After his military service, Murray returned to Laramie in 1949 to work for the Union Pacific Railroad as a brakeman and conductor. As a senior conductor, Murray then moved to Fort Collins in 1970 where he completed a record 51 total years of Union Pacific employment at the time of his retirement in 1991. Murray is survived by his two sons, Roger Kathy Morgan of Fort Collins, and Ronald Joan Morgan of Mancos, CO; stepson Stan Christi Wich of Fort Collins, and stepdaughter Susan Steve Wich Rodriguez of Colorado Springs; grandchildren Kerry, Mindy, Christopher and Michelle Morgan; step grandchildren Cassie and Randy Wich, Ashley Rodriguez; and four great grandchildren. The family would like to send special thanks to the staff and residents of Clare Bridge of Fort Collins for the loving community they offered Murray during the last 16 months of his life. Their devoted efforts deeply enriched his final days. Memorial contributions can be made to the Alzheimer's Association in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, CO 80524. At Murray's request there will be no memorial service. Military funeral services will be held at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver at a future date.

Tribute Wall

AC

“ It shocked and made me sad to hear of Murray's passing. He was one of a kind. He taught me a lot. From taking care of your tools, fixing most anything to boating and camping. He was a person in my life that really meant something. I haven't seen him in years but, I thought of him often.

Allen Christensen - July 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ Roger and Kathy: Our deepest sympathies over the loss of your father, your friend and a wonderful American patriot. How fortunate we all are to have had the gift of Murray's presence in our lives.
Karen and Tom

Tom and Karen Weitkunat - July 01, 2014 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ It was always a pleasure to work with Murray on the Union Pacific. I shared many a trip with him! What a great guy he was – always jovial and laughing! Linda and I wish to express our condolences to Roger and Ron and their families along with Murray's extended family. We are very sorry for your loss. May God Bless.

Winston & Linda Brickey - June 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Uncle Murray's passing really hit Kim and i in that we have no Aunts, Uncles, or Parents left to be with, talk with, but our memories of each and every one will stay with us until it's our time to join them all in Heaven. God Bless to all the children, grand children, and great grand children who will carry on the Morgan tradition. In closing, Uncle Murray gave me the nickname "Little Dutchman" which I will NEVER forget. Great person who made everyone around him laugh and that's what I remember the most! Kim and I are looking forward to seeing everyone next summer and I hope everyone will attend. God Bless you all!

David Kim Morgan - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

FS

“ To my very special next door neighbor of 12 years in Fort Collins who taught me the proper way to shovel the snow from the driveway and the pavement, no small matter to someone from Paris, France! I will miss bringing you the escargots chocolates which you enjoyed, but will never forget your kindness. Peace!

Francoise Smith - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ Characters like Murray's make our lives better, brighter, and more fun. We got to know and to love Murray mostly through the stories of Kathy and Roger. These stories about Murray's life adventures made us laugh and cry, and think about our own lives. Memories of Murray will always have a warm place in our hearts.

Bob and Olga Duvall - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ It was our honor to have known Murray and see how he cherished life with his loved ones. Those who have known him loved him and could sense his pride for his service to his country during and after WWII. As you rest in peace Murray, we will remember you.

Larry and Connie Wilson - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

GO

“ We feel very lucky to have known Murray for the last 15 years. He was our next door neighbor and always stopped to chat about things whenever we saw him out. He loved to help with the yard or trees or snow blowing when he could. I remember the big March blizzard when we all got snowed in. Murray's son Roger came over with the snow blower and opened up the cul de sac. The next day Murray and I spent the better part of the day shoveling and opening up several of the neighbors' driveways. We got to know a little about his history in the military and the railroad but didn't know he was a musician too! He clearly led a fabulous life. We'll miss him.

Greg and Jo O'Malia - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ We wish to say Thank You to your loved one for his service to our great country. Our sympathies are with your family. Marine Corps League Auxiliary #785 Fort Collins, CO

Marine Corps League Auxiliary - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

AA

“ We share your loss.

ANDY ANDERSON - June 19, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Yes, Murray's sense of humor and love of life certainly brought smiles and laughter to our lives each time we saw him. Thinking of his family and friends as Murray peacefully enters a new life filled with more smiles and laughter for all: Prayers to his special family!

Dave and Marilyn Yeutter - June 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DY

“ Yes, Murray's sense of humor and love of life certainly brought smiles and laughter to our lives each time we saw him. Thinking of his family and friends as Murray peacefully enters a new life filled with more smiles and laughter for all: Prayers to his special family!

Dave and Marilyn Yeutter - June 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ I'm so sorry to hear this news. It's been many years since I last saw Murray, but I remember him well. I extend my sincere condolences to all of the Morgan family.

Dennis Woods - June 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM