



## Teddy E. Oakes

March 10, 1939 - October 14, 2009

Teddy E. Oakes of Fort Collins passed away at home on October 14, 2009 after a 3 year battle with cancer. He was born March 10, 1939 in Fort Collins to Al & Esther Harris Oakes. He attended Fort Collins Schools until his senior year. He then attended Brown Military Academy in California where he graduated in 1957. He is survived by his wife, Eldonna; daughters, Dana Holcomb of Virginia, and Tedi Sue Blevins; grandsons, Nicholas and Levi of Lawrence, Kansas; cousins, Beverly Brown and Rayma Flowers of Montrose; stepdaughters, Kathryn Ralph Nielsen of Vancouver, Washington, Pamela Nick Troyan of Loveland, Chris Mike Wilson of Kansas City Kansas and their families. He was preceded in death by his parents and his step father, Justus Wilkinson. When Ted's father built Oakes Motor Company now the Armadillo in Fort Collins, he discovered his love for all things mechanical which followed him through his life and career, especially Harleys. He helped found ABATE of Kansas. He was also involved in several Motorcycle clubs over the years. Ted is also survived by very special friends, Pat Bob Forbis of California, Norman Cook of Fort Collins and a host of others. Cremation has been completed and no services will be held per his wish. The Family suggests that donations be made to Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Rd., Fort Collins, Colorado 80525.

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ I had a unique childhood raised by bikers. I grew up going to ABATE meetings once a month and having biker parties and fighting helmet laws, protesting on the steps of the capital. One birthday present for me was ditching school to go with dad to speak at the capital. I learned more there than any day at school. Dad taught me to think for myself and stand up for what I believe in, be real in a world full of phony people. I will miss sitting there having a beer with my dad and shooting the breeze about nothing hour after hour hearing his stories and jokes, his laugh and that gleam in his eyes when he was up to something naughty. I was only able to see dad about once a year since I moved back to Kansas but I am so glad I got to make one more trip before he passed to see him ride around on his trike motorless and ride a few times with him. It was so nice to see him so happy with Eldonna for the last 2 decades plus. I am glad he had her. I will miss you dad. Tater Tedi Oakes Blevins

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**Tedi Blevins** - February 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ When I first met Ted and his many friends and family, they were just beginning the now famous helmet law fight. We shared lots of great times, lots of laughs, spent time kicking around ideas, and causing general havoc for the KCK police. We shared rides, broken bones, broken bikes, and so many memories ... Ted, I'll miss you so much, but I'll still treasure all those memories. I'd like to offer a biker's prayer for you... Our Harley, which art a chopper, hallowed be thy Twin. Thy tires hum, thy engines run, under the sun. Forgive us our drag pipes, as we forgive those who ride fully dressed amongst us. Lead us not into a speed trap, and save us from the Man, Amen. PS: Don't get into too much trouble up there ... save a little for me, I'll be along sooner or later. Miss ya ... Shann

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**Shannderson** - February 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM

KN

“ Funny you know how things turn out. I just spent 2 weeks with mom and I have never seen her grieve over anyone as much as our Ted. We were talking and she of course remembers me looking at Ted 19 yrs ago and shaking my head and saying NO MOM! Then I reminded her of her same action of when Ralph n I met...No she said. Well we were both wrong. Ted loved her unconditionally. It was an inspiration for the rest of the family and both Ted and Ralph said they had to marry a family to get a family. And that is what we all are. Now we have a huge void in our lives with out his presence. The memories we have will not fade because the man that was taken from us is truly unforgettable. Because two people fell back in love, a family was created. I am very humbled to have had Ted as a father. I will miss him with every passing day. Please cherish everyday that you have on this earth as life is just to damn short. Miss you dad. Love Kat

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**Kathryn Nielsen** - December 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Dad was truly the Father I never had. He always told me I was his daughter forget the step. He spoiled me with much love, laughter, and his wisdom in things I would ask him about, but most of all he spoiled me with the love ,respect, and beautiful relationship he showed to my mother. As much as it broke our hearts to see him go through the illness that showed no mercy, he never complained and really for the most part kept his humor. I know he did that mostly for us because he always worried more about how Mom was doing. I know that as much as it broke my Mother's,Heide's and my heart for those last hours of his life I know he knew he was'nt alone because one of us was always holding his hand, and he went knowing he was loved and not alone. I will always treasure my memories of him and all the love he gave me.

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**Pamela S. Oakes Troyan** - December 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HG

“ In recent years I had the privilege of becoming reacquainted with Ted beyond his life of organizations, strong beliefs and endless knowledge. I learned of his strength, courage and compassion after I was no longer able to hear his monotone voice delivering his engrossing tales. I miss you everyday and will everlastingly see your ornery grin that warmed my heart and forever miss your bear hug arms unselfishly providing comfort and love. I love you and am thankful that you and my grandmother reunited. I grew to love you as my grandfather over the past nineteen years and you will forever be. You provided my grandmother with the love and respect she has always deserved and loved us all unconditionally. A definite inspiration. Thank you for the years of laughter and memories. Your absence is greatly missed. "Don't ya know?"

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**Heide M. Goodermote** - December 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ Never met a man I loved and respected so much. Loved his stories and outlook on life. Will be missed greatly and thought of often.

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**Gordon Goodermote & Toni Heasty** - December 03, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ I lost track of Teddy over the years but Norm Cook kept me up to date on him. Two memories stand out for me. One summer while in high school Norm, Ted and I road around in his new Nash and visited nearby towns. We'd sing songs, talk up a storm and see if we could beat other cars when the stop lights changed. Great fun. My other rememberance was a few months ago when I went to see him. He was just like Norm said he'd be. Despite his condition he was in a good mood and you'd never know he was handicapped nor that he had suffered so much with his disease. He was and is an inspiration.

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**Jerry Davies** - October 30, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ So sorry to hear about the passing of Ted from a fellow classmate of the class of '57.

Judi Buderus Holter - October 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Ted was one of those people who you could talk to for hours and he always had an opinion on everything and he stood up for that opinion. If someone were to ask me who my hero is id tell them Ted Oakes! He taught me alot of things a guy needs to know like how to sharpen a knife, How to respect a gun, play poker, and anchovies taste great on pizza! Plus many other life lessons. Ted may be gone but his memories live strong in all of us! He will be missed but never forgotten.

Joshua D. Moore - October 29, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I never knew Ted, but I well know the organization which he helped to found. ABATE of Kansas stands as a memorial to Ted and others like him who stood up for their beliefs those years past and created something much greater than themselves. Ted-May your road be always downhill, the sun ever at your back, and your knees forever in the breeze. May you be half an hour in heaven before the Devil knows you're dead.--Jon F. Puckett, President, ABATE of Kansas

Jon F. Puckett - October 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ I am sorry to hear of Ted's death. As a fellow classmate of 1957, he shared with us many memories and good times. Best wishes to each family member. May you cherish your memories of this fine man. Carol Michie Alford

Carol Michie Alford - October 28, 2009 at 12:00 AM

HH

“ Ted was one of a kind.

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**Howard Hughes** - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ P.S. I think Ted thought of me more as the son he never had because I was such a tomboy & loved working on things & helping him in the garage.

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**Chris Wilson** - October 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ EIDonna & Family: We were so sorry when we got the word that Ted had passed. He was the only cousin we had on my Dad's side and we were always so excited to hear that they were coming to visit during the summers. At that time there wasn't much going on in the rural areas for kids to do during the summers. We had a lot of fun with him. I wish we could have visited him one more time. He was so blessed to have you and the kids. I hope we can keep in touch. Take care. Love, Jim & Rayma

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**Jim & Rayma Flowers** - October 22, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Ted is now riding that Springer in the sky! We shared some great times, defending the MC world. And he always had fond memories of being with my parents at Clancy's. I'll miss you Teddy!

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**Craig** - October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I met Ted in 1974 when he and his then wife Donna were starting ABATE of Kansas. I always admired his leadership capabilities whether as the president of ABATE or speaking before Kansas congressional committees. He helped a fledgling organization mature into a political force. I visited him in Ft. Collins many times and he will be missed.

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**George Blevins** - October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Dear Eldonna and Family of Teddy, Well I must admit when I saw an email from springerted I was excited! I thought wow Ted is back online and feeling better! I use to enjoy his emails! I will always remember sitting on the front porch drinking beer and waving at the trolley going by. I remember how wonderful it was when the girls surprised you at the wedding! Take care of yourself Eldonna and know that Ted is at peace and is no longer in pain. Love all you guys, LynnDee

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**LynnDee Aldrich** - October 19, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Ted was my landlord for a number of years and I lived next door to them. One thing I remember about Ted was how much he loved my dog Kenya and cat Jasmine. In the summer Kenya and I would come over and we would sit on the porch and talk. After a while Jasmine would come sauntering over .... as we all expected her to do. Ted laughed pretty hard when Kenya and I would chase each other around in the yard. He really loved that dog. Kenya seemed to give him a lot of joy. Ted was tons lot of fun! If you wanted to laugh you could go over the Ted and Eldonna's and hoot and holler for as long as you wanted. Even during his illness he was still smiling. Thank you so much Eldonna for your many kindnesses to him. It was always heart warming to see how much you loved each other....everyone should be so lucky! With love and fond memories,  
Deanna

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**Deanna Nagel** - October 18, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ We lose another friend. The times growing up were good. My thoughts are with the family.

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**Karen Brinkhoff** - October 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Ted was the closest thing I had to a father figure. I have kept in contact with him even after he & my mother divorced many, many years ago. I was twelve when I first met Ted. At 14 I helped him rebuild his knucklehead, age 18 he taught me how to ride a motorcycle. When I learned to ride, there were very few women that actually operated a motorcycle themselves. He led rallies at the capitol in Topeka, KS fighting the helmet law, which we won. I use to love listening to him tell stories. Ted was a story teller, he could take a story that would take most people 2-5 minutes to tell, but when he told it, it would take 30-60 minutes. I am glad that he found Eldonna again and they had 19 wonderful years together. I want to thank Eldonna & her family for being there for him. There will be a void in our lives & he will be greatly missed, but I know he is riding his harley in heaven. With much love & fond memories Chris Wilson

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**Chris Wilson** - October 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Ted was always such a happy sort, when we would have lunch at the TBar. We always had some good laughs! Eldonna, you know my thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Beth Hixson** - October 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ I first met Ted in Kindergarten in 1944 and we grew up together. It's tough to lose a good buddy like that! I'm thankful for Eldonna and the fact that she really brought some fun and good times into Ted's life....and also she did a wonderful job as caregiver during his illness! I cherish the memory of this unique individual whom I called my best friend! With Love and deepest Sympathy Norm Cook

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**Norm Cook** - October 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PF

“*Ted and I shared a rare and valued friendship for over 60 years; he was the brother I never had. We grew up sharing our dreams, successes and challenges, giving one another advice and encouragement through the years and over many miles. It was a friendship built on mutual respect, without condition. Eldonna was Ted's perfect mate; he loved her with every fiber of his being, and they had a wonderful marriage, albeit much too short. I treasure the memories I have of Ted and will miss him. Rest well, my friend. Pat*

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**Pat Forbis** - October 17, 2009 at 12:00 AM