



Thomas R. Blackburn

November 26, 1918 - March 23, 2014

Thomas R. Blackburn, long time Fort Collins resident, passed away Sunday, March 23, 2014 at the age of 95. Tom was born in Bent County, Colorado near Hasty on November 26, 1918. His parents, Ray J. Blackburn and May McArthur Blackburn were cattle ranchers raising Hereford cattle. Following his graduation from Colorado State University then Colorado A & M College, Tom became engaged to Lorena Hubbs, two days prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor. He resigned his job and was inducted into the U.S. Army on March 15, 1942 where he served in the South Pacific for the duration of the war. Campaigns: 2 ½ years in the South Pacific Jungles Express August Bay in Solomon Islands; Bismarck Archipelago; Luzon in the Philippines. After the war, Tom married Lorena on January 12, 1946. The couple had one daughter, Janet. In 1946 Tom began a 33 year career with the faculty of Colorado State University's Animal Science Department. He judged livestock shows in 17 states coast to coast. He also loved farming and farmed the family's dry land wheat operation from 1972 through 1986. Tom had a positive outlook and great sense of humor. He held degrees from Colorado State University and the University of Minnesota Masters. He loved reading and learning; writing – including a WW II memoir and children's stories for his nieces and nephews; a job well done; gardening - - especially his roses; wide open spaces, sunshine, blue sky and apple pie. Tom is survived by his daughter, Janet Blackburn of Fort Collins; cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lorena; and his younger brothers, Bruce and George. Those

desiring to make a memorial contribution may contribute to the Thomas R. Blackburn Scholarship a CSU Animal Science Scholarship or the Salvation Army in care of Bohlender Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524. Friends may send condolences to the family at bohlenderfuneralchapel.com. A Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday at Bohlender Funeral Chapel. An interment with Military Honors by the Fort Collins All Veterans Honor Guard will follow at Loveland Burial Park.

Tribute Wall

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“ Janet, I have such fond memories of your Dad when you & I were growing up on Eastdale. He had such a great sense of humor. He was also very fortunate having such a loving & caring daughter as you have been. My thoughts & prayers are with you. Annetta

Annetta Gregory Saxerud - March 30, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ Janet, We were so sorry to hear about Tom. Annetta and I can understand and share your loss. I am sure Tom and Dad are probably catching up on the latest happenings in the neighborhood and keeping track of us. You are in our prayers and thoughts. Dan and Lois Gregory

Dan J Gregory - March 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ Janet, I am so sorry for your loss. For the short time I knew your dad, he always brought a smile to my face. What a special, funny guy! And, he was so blessed to have you; such a loving, caring daughter. My thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of sorrow. Kelley and Pat.

Kelley O'Donnell - March 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM