



## William Joseph Franek

May 25, 1937 - December 11, 2021

William Joseph Franek, 84, passed away on December 11, 2021. He was born in Colville, Washington, on May 25, 1937, the son of the late John Andrew, Sr. and Pauline Mary Franek. He served in the United States Air Force from 1960-1964, then attended University of Colorado at Boulder, earning a degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked for Public Service Community of Colorado (now Xcel Energy) for 30 years, until his retirement in 1999.

William enjoyed elk hunting and spending time outside, particularly in his garden. He always enjoyed talking over coffee with the locals at Johnson's Corner, and was a regular there. He was an avid football fan, always rooting for his Denver Broncos, for better or worse. William was a strong believer in the importance of education and encouraged all of his children to excel in school. He always enjoyed meeting new people, and it's likely everyone has a story about "the time they met Bill." Whenever anyone asked how he was, his response was always "sweet, wonderful, charming, humble and modest. And those are my bad qualities."

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Jeanette B. Franek; a daughter, Amy B. Cope and her husband Scott; a son, Aaron D. Franek and his wife Cheri; a daughter, Lisa D. Franek; a son Casey A. Franek; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents; and his siblings, John Franek, Jr., Margaret Martinez, Thomas Franek, Andrew Franek and Anthony Franek; and his granddaughter, Rosalyne Cope.

William's funeral service will be held on December 29 at 1 p.m. at Grace Community Church in Johnstown. A reception will be held immediately after.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in William's name to the Rosalyne M. Cope Memorial Scholarship Fund at High Country Bank, 516 U.S. Highway 24 North, PO Box 1882, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM (MT)

Grace Community Church  
2033 W. South 1st Street  
Johnstown, CO 80534

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ Golly Bill, er "Wah"

*I have so many memories of our conversations that they are too many to count, but there are two in particular.*

*I remember when you used to invade "my office" walking right by Peggy Collins, and proceed to tell me how I was screwing up by the numbers, and this is "what I should do." One of the things you taught me is to always pay attention to the folks that actually knew what they were doing. I like to think that I eventually got it, and for that I am forever grateful.*

*I remember going through, line by line, the data logger printouts after a scram, and just listening to your analysis of how everything interacted. Then you took out the prints and showed me how to read them. Even a dullard like me eventually could make sense of it.*

*Among many other memories, this is the one that sticks out the most. Everyone at the plant, especially the Control Specialists and the Operators knew that we had a ridiculously, stupidly, finicky PPS system, ANY 2 out of three as I recall resulted in a loop shutdown or a scram. No one's fault, just a poor design. It was so stupid that it depended on how fast, or how slow, you changed positions on a switch (It's been a long time so maybe my memory is creating memories, but it was something like that.).*

*Anyway, I recall asking you to talk with me about what we could do to make the plant more reliable, given the cards were dealt and we had to play them. For all the now "old salts", that resulted in "hell week" in which we collected all the most difficult PPS surveillances into one glorious week of anxiety. And it worked!! Table Mountain Dispatch knew what we were doing and when, we knew what we were doing and when, and it resulted in a significant improvement in our reliability. And "the Wah" was there the whole time overseeing and training folks, night or day, holiday or Sunday. I remember getting a call from Dick Walker and he asked what we had done to change things. It wasn't perfect but it was a huge step forward for us.*

*Thanks Bill. I will never forget.*

*Chuck Fuller*

---

**Chuck Fuller** - December 31, 2021 at 11:47 PM

MG

“ *Michael Gale lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Franek*



---

**Michael Gale** - December 28, 2021 at 03:27 PM

MG

*Bill was always fun to work with. He always seemed to be happy and cheerful. Especially when doing surveillances in the office...*

---

**Michael Gale** - December 28, 2021 at 03:31 PM

GW

“ Bill was always an amazing intellect, realist, mentor and friend. His contributions to Ft St Vrain were actually, and in reality, innumerable. But it was in Repowering that he really did shine. His ability to get a process from one side of the plant to the other by connecting abandoned piping is legendary. There is a valve in the plant who's proper name is the "Emergency Drag Valve". The Control Specialists of today, none of whom had the privilege of working with Bill, ended up calling this valve the "Frantic Valve". Because, when it comes into play, they are "frantically" trying to save the plant. It has been shared with them that, no, this is the "Franek Valve" and told the story behind it. You see, this was something Bill designed and cobbled together from abandoned piping. A unique way to help every Control Specialist from then through today. Help them when they were really, really in trouble. Just one small example of what he means to the people of this power plant, even those who never knew him. I did know him and Bill was truly the Sweetest and most Wonderfulest man I have ever had the privilege of working with.

---

**Gary Weiderspon** - December 23, 2021 at 02:59 PM

MF

“ Mike Ferris lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Franek



---

**Mike Ferris** - December 21, 2021 at 09:46 PM

MI

“ Mike lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Franek



---

**Mike** - December 20, 2021 at 10:01 PM

DB

“ Bill was such a kind and caring man, very slow to anger but quick to laugh and always willing to help me understand the complicated control system at the Fort. I appreciated his wisdom and patience, you will be missed my friend!

*Dan Brown*

---

**Dan Brown** - December 19, 2021 at 12:30 PM

RL

“ Loved by everyone and such a great personality. He was so good natured that folks liked to play tricks on him. Someone was always stealing his hard hat, filling it with water, to be found later by Bill in the lunch room freezer. He will be missed. Rest In Peace “Sweet William”.

---

**Ray Luthye** - December 18, 2021 at 08:11 AM

OP

“ Bill made me feel welcomed and valued from my first day at the Fort. He was a great technical talent and most importantly an outstanding human being. We are diminished by his passing.

---

**Ozzie Paez** - December 18, 2021 at 12:02 AM

GM

“ I still remember his saying when you asked how he was doing, and his answer was always "Sweet and wonderful. RIP, Bill Greg Morgan, FSV, 1979 1992.

-----  
**Greg Morgan** - December 17, 2021 at 10:02 PM

JA

“ Certainly one of the most lovable characters at the Fort! (Jim Eggebrotten)

-----  
**Jim August** - December 17, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JP

“ Joe Pinner lit a candle in memory of William Joseph Franek



-----  
**Joe Pinner** - December 16, 2021 at 08:15 PM