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# WRD RETIREES

NEWSLETTER 167  
May 2015

*An organization of retirees of the Water Resources Discipline, U.S. Geological Survey, whose purpose is to keep its members in touch with each other and their former agency.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You may have heard rumors about changes in the WRD Retiree Organization; some of the rumors may turn out to be true, but if true then also problematic. No changes will be made before we have had a lot of discussion to find out what the members want. These ideas are, in part, motivated by the changes we see in USGS reorganization. Today's USGS is not the one we worked for in the past. The divisions are gone, and so is WRD. How should we relate to the present day USGS? If we enjoyed being a part of the USGS family, what is our responsibility now to pass the torch of values, traditions, and camaraderie to the next generation of retirees? The average age of the retirees continues to increase, while their numbers continue to decline. So it seems that we need to recruit new and younger members to replace those who leave our retirees group. Nowadays the newly increased USGS security rules make recruiting more difficult; however, we still have to continue to recruit.

Therefore, this newsletter issue will contain items which relate to some of these problems for you to consider and possibly offer some solutions. For example, for delinquent dues paying members, we could prepare a note reminding the members to pay their dues, coupled with a plea for more information on News of Retirees. This part of the newsletter continues to be very popular among members, but that means we need to know what activities the members are doing or have done. Another possible suggestion is that it may be time to change the name of the WRD Retirees Organization. Some suggestions for a name change could affect disciplines like geology, water, mapping, and biology. None of the suggestions have hit the mark so far. As a retiree, what do you think of this suggestion? Finally, there is a poll included to ask what the members would like to see in the newsletter. How can we best serve both the current retirees and those who may join our organization at a later time? Please try to respond to these polls within 30 days of receipt of the newsletter.

As you know, we have been limping along without the benefit of an editor, since Charles Nethaway passed away. Now we are fortunate that Celso Puente has volunteered to take on the duties of Acting Editor, a big step forward. Many thanks to you, Celso.

In the last issue we omitted by accident the news from the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE). This item concerns how federal health care insurance premiums have changed over the years, a topic close to many hearts. Apologies for the oversight, and so the NARFE article is included in this issue.

I want to thank those members who are retiring after helping us in various jobs.

Also, to help recruit new members, please send along the name of anyone who is soon to retire from the USGS. I will send an invitation to each person.



**It is time to pay WRD Retirees dues for 2015**

If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter, you will see a number in the upper right-hand corner of the mailing label on the envelope. This number is the last year you paid dues. If the number is 2013, then you owe dues for 2 years (2014 and 2015). Dues are \$10 per year and cover the cost of the Hydrologic Technician Scholarship, and printing the newsletter and the Directory. We accept dues for future years and contributions above dues are appreciated! If the number on the upper right hand corner of the mailing label is 2014 or earlier, please send a check for dues owed to: WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280. Indicate how much of the money is for dues and how much is a contribution. Please let us know if we have made an error in recording your past payments. Members who receive their Newsletter by email should check their records because they will no longer have a mailing label. If you have questions, email Andy Anderson at: [wrdretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrdretirees2014@gmail.com).

**NEWS OF RETIREES FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

We get many comments from retirees saying that the best part of the Newsletter is the News of Retirees. The only source of this information is from the membership. Please use the space on this page to let us know what is happening to you in your life that you would like to share with the membership. Your friends and colleagues would like to hear from you. The due date for submitting an article is the 15th of the month preceding publication. For example, for the May 2015 issue, it is April 15th.

We especially want one-page articles on what activities retirees have been doing. For example, going on a vacation or serving as volunteers. See Don Helm's article on groundwater and fissures in China for an example (Feb. 2015 issue).

If you read the Newsletter electronically, you can just send a message expressing your views to us at [wrdretirees2014@gmail.com](mailto:wrdretirees2014@gmail.com). Otherwise, tear out this sheet with your input and mail it to WRD Retirees, P.O. Box 280, Herndon, VA 20172-0280.








## The Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) Saved Our Lives By Sandy Williamson



On Sunday, October 27, 2013, 5 days before the Ft. Lauderdale boat show started, I met Cory, a USGS fellow who accompanied me on a trip out to sea from Miami for Bimini Island at 8:10 a.m. It is a 50-mile trip that I wanted to do before the boat show to demonstrate that the Helicat.net could handle the sea on that trip on some days. That day we had 3 to 5 ft. wave tops that resulted from a 10 mph NE wind and a 3 mph south water current. About 90 minutes later, after we left the shore, we were doing fine, being out 20 miles from the shore. Suddenly, large waves ripped off one front storage hatch cover and then the other, thus flooding those compartments. We immediately turned the boat around and started heading back to Miami. Apparently a bulkhead also failed and started filling with water from the adjacent storage compartment. The boat began to list. Realizing the danger, we set off the PLB (personal locator beacon). The boat capsized due to taking on water in one hull. We floated for about 45 minutes, and then slowly sank. This gave us enough time to untie ourselves from the boat and to tie ourselves to each other. The boat sank to a water depth of 2,100 ft. The water temperature was about 80 degrees, and Cory was shivering as he did not have the layers of insulation to keep him warm that I have accumulated. We could see the tall building tops in Miami when we were on wave tops. We also saw several commercial flights way high up in the sky, and a couple of freighters far from the shore. We saw no other boats during the whole day after leaving the shore. At 11:00 a. m., Cory pulled out the antennae on the PLB, which I had not noticed. Apparently this was the first emergency signal the USCG picked up from us.

At noon, thank God, we saw the USCG helicopter coming our way, thanks to the locator beacon. (My wonderful brother suggested the loan of the PLB to me by Skip's friend, Rollie of Westpacmarine.com. Also, I am very thankful that Rollie took the time to register all the phone numbers so the USCG could reach my brother to confirm that we might be at sea with a problem.)

The USCG operation was perfect, but it is very hard to see two little heads in the ocean. The helicopter made two passes at an altitude of 1,000 ft to determine the location of maximum signal from our beacon. Not knowing how the USCG rescue procedures work, it was very unsettling to see the helicopter fly over us twice and then fly out of sight. I mistakenly thought they might surmise it was a mistaken signal. The helicopter spotted us on the 3rd pass. Mike, who was aboard the helicopter and was a rescue swimmer jumped in the water and swam to us just like in the movie "The Guardian." We were in the water a total of 3 hours. The helicopter pulled us up one by one. They pulled me up first in a rescue basket, then they pulled Mike up in a sling. After we were onboard, they gave us blankets and ear plugs, and took us back to their base. At the base USCG personnel took us to a facility to take hot showers. They also gave us clothes and food. The USCG was very professional and efficient during their rescue operation. They treated us very well.

If that PLB had not worked, then we would have drifted many miles out to sea, and it would have been very hard to help us by the time we were reported missing. We saw no sharks and, although neither of us mentioned it to each other, we both thought about it. Neither of us panicked, but we were very worried, of course. We prayed independently and silently. I never did the bargaining thing as I guess after several decades of being a believer, I am convinced that God cannot be fooled. I was generally at peace throughout the ordeal; however, I was extremely worried for Cory and my family. Cory was the perfect partner for this venture and handled himself amazingly well. I connected with Cory by my contacting his office and asking for an adventure partner. The camaraderie and network of the USGS served me well. God must have further plans for us to make sure we were saved from this situation. I thank God and the USCG for saving our lives.

### **WRD Retirees Web Site**

For your information, we maintain a web site at <http://wrdretirees.org/> Copies of the newsletter are stored on the site, as well as lists of the officers and state contacts. Among other useful information is a list of local meetings and gatherings, information about the intern scholarship program, and enrollment forms for those who wish to join the WRD Retirees.

### **Water Resources Key Officials**

USGS maintains a web page of key water resources officials that can be useful if you wish to contact someone in the Survey. You will find a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers at this link: [http://water.usgs.gov/key\\_officials.html](http://water.usgs.gov/key_officials.html).

The page covers headquarters staff as well as those in the regions and Water Science Centers. It appears that the list is kept up to date, so this would be a good place to start if you are looking for a particular office. Other pages on the site at <http://water.usgs.gov> allow you to search for individual employees or Water Science Center pages.

### **Geologic Division Newsletter**

We have recently been working more closely with our friends in what was once the Geologic Division. The GD Retirees have their own organization and newsletter, and we are asking them for future issues in case members may be interested. For starters, here is a link for the Summer 2014 issue. Please let us know if you would like to receive future issues of this newsletter. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8FZ9WSEG7a2N0hGYXJuRUhNdDA/view?usp=sharing>

## MEETINGS & GATHERINGS



**WRD Retirees – Indianapolis, Indiana  
February 5, 2015**

**Front:** Jeff Martin, Lee Watson, Pat Long, Dave Cohen.

**Back:** Konrad Banaszak, Dennis Steward, Jay Kiesler (recently retired), Jerry Davis, and Les Arihood. Weather kept Rick & Sharon Goss from making the trip, but they were there in spirit. The next lunch gathering will be in April.

**WRD Retirees – Indianapolis, Indiana  
April 2015**

**Left Side (Front to Back):** Dennis Stewart, Konrad Banaszak, Rick Goss, Cheryl Silcox,

**Right Side (Back to Front):** Debbie Majors, Sharon Goss, Lee Watson, and Dave Cohen.



**Central Region Retirees' Spring Luncheon (Colorado) – April 15, 2015 – Attendees:** Jim & Merilee Bennett, Jim & Paula Blakey, Judy Cornwall, Carole & Chris DeHerrera, Sandra & Jerry Duncan, Bill Emmett, Bob Jarrett, Bill & Barbara Kastner, Mary Kidd, Russ & Anita Livingston, Dave & Karen Lystrom, John McLean, Bob Meade, John Moore, Cynthia Norman, Tim Steele, Warren & Dee Teasdale, Juan Vasquez, and Jack Weeks. *(A group photo was not available)*



**NWQL Retirees Luncheon – Lakewood, CO  
March 2, 2015**

**Left Side:** Mark Eaton, Rich Hawkinson, Jim Bennett, Merilee Bennett, Jim Blakey, Paula Blakey

**Right Side:** Debi Treseder, Dave Erdmann, Ann Watterson, Sandra Duncan, Jerry Duncan

**Texas WRD Retirees Meeting** was held on Wednesday April 15th at Big Daddies Bar and Grill, Austin, TX

## Jim Daniel's Observed WRD Axioms

This month (January 2015) marks 20 years since I retired from WRD. Maybe it's time to pass on some of the "wisdom" I gathered in 37 years working in one of the great organizations in either private or public sectors. These are my own formulations. Some are similar to other observations in many leadership books, but, they are expressed in my jargon. They are not presented in order of importance. Rather, they are presented in rough order of chronological development. I hope they bring a chuckle as well as a few thoughts of "I've encountered precisely that in my career."

1. **Positive decisions are made at the lowest level of awareness of a problem.** If the decision is passed up the chain, the positive decision was made first. Only "No!" at a next level stops the positive decision. It's related to knowing that those closest to a problem know best how to fix it.
2. **Endorsement or rejection of a proposal by a supervisor is entirely dependent upon the quality of the supervisor's sexual experience the previous evening – if the experience was good, the answer's 'Yes;' if the experience was bad, the answer's 'No;' if there was no experience the proposal is delayed for further study.** I thought a bit about including this one in this article as some might find it too vulgar. But, it's as good an explanation of seemingly random, irrational responses as any so I left it in.
3. **Organization of paper and the tendency to create forms are inversely proportional to the organization of the mind.** Some people just can't think without guidelines on paper (or in the computer now). That's not necessarily bad, but I think the observation is valid.
4. **Preliminary results are always final.** I just have not observed an instance where this does not apply (of course, my observation is only preliminary)!
5. **We all do worst what we think we do best.** This is the 'Ego' axiom and it applies to me, too. Our worst may still be better than the majority's best, so it really is relative.
6. **People will never do anything right if it's easier to do it wrong.** This one is not an absolute. It deals with individual self-discipline. Too many folks don't have the self-discipline to take the time to do something 'right.'
7. **Standardized things provide the lowest common denominator of utility.** Perhaps this is just personal bias. It is closely related to developing consensus. As desirable as consensus may be, it usually does not produce innovative breakthroughs. It's nice for all to buy into something, but, that only produces baby steps, not leaps.
8. **Panic spreads, but, so does calm.** If a supervisor/manager/executive panics, so does everyone at lower levels. Conversely, if the supervisor/manager/executive stays calm, usually order prevails and all can proceed to solve the problem. It's related to 'Don't sweat the small stuff and its all small stuff.'
9. **Given time, a manager is captured by his/her budget.** This one is almost absolute. We all become advocates of our purview. This happens even when we are put in charge of something we don't initially champion. In time, we do, often to the exclusion of things we previously did champion.
10. **Everything's new to people who don't know anything.** This one is Chet Zenone's favorite. We see it in every walk of life. People think they have discovered something really profound. They don't know that such has been 'discovered' time and time again in the past. It's another way of saying that those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it. The same thing applies to research. There's a lot of good stuff on library shelves which has not been digitized and put on the Internet.

That does it for me. I'd be remiss if I didn't confess that I read many leadership-themed books when I was trying to be one. One which stands out to me is Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun, by Wess Roberts, copyright 1985, 1987. One rule from it that we can see daily in every walk of life is: **Someone's gotta be in charge!** Imagine how effective the Obamacare website roll-out might have been if someone was actually in charge! Or, think of the old saw about an elephant or a camel being a horse designed by a committee!

## NEWS OF RETIREES

**Jim and Merilee Bennett** writes: "Spring has sprung here, but weather-wise we are still having days here and there where we are getting a snow and rain mix – it's not amounting to much down in the Denver area, but the mountains and resort areas are enjoying the influx of skiers late in the season. We attended the annual central region 'Retirees' Spring Luncheon' and enjoyed catching up with those who attended on their travels, new grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and current health issues."

**Lois Douglas** writes: "Greetings from beautiful Boise, Idaho! February has been mild here with lots of sunshine. The average temps are in the 40's and reach as high as 65<sup>o</sup> last week! We have an occasional "skiff" of snow that's usually gone by noon. The crocus and the daffodils are springing to life and I started my 'Spring' house cleaning. Enclosed is my check for 2015 dues."

**Herb Freiberger** writes: "Pat and I are doing well health wise and otherwise. Aches and pains come and go, but I must say that as we get older, the aches and pains come more than they go. Since I last wrote a spot for the newsletter, we attended the last reunion in Portland, ME. Derrill Cowing and the reunion committee did a great job and it was great to see long-time friends and co-workers. Following the reunion, we spent a week in Vermont, in a timeshare, with my sister Dotty and brother-in-law Tom, who also attended the reunion for the third one in a row. Vermont is a beautiful state, made even more beautiful by the spectacular foliage in the fall. In the first week in February, Pat and I spent a week in the Dominican Republic with our oldest daughter, Kathy and her husband Mark. The Dominican Republic is an interesting island with both third-world areas and modern cities, but both with some of the most beautiful beaches anywhere. It's a place we would definitely return to. When the next issue of the newsletter comes out, we will most likely be in Mexico, just below the Arizona border, again with my sister Dotty and her husband Tom. Later in 2015, we will be traveling to St. Louis for a family reunion on Tom's side of the family. Do we still have to get approval to enter the Central Region from Jim Blakey?!! They tell me it's easier to get in and out of Mexico!! Pat and I are at a point in our lives in that we are going to travel while we can. On the list for 2016 is Nashville, TN for the next reunion. Here's hoping all out there are doing well."

**Ed Gutentag** writes: "Enclosed is a check my dues. I moved from 6200 ft. in Colorado to 50 ft. in Louisiana, where my wife is from. We love living here in rural Evangeline Parish, connected to the world by the US Mail, Direct TV, and WiFi. I am making a comeback from COPD and dementias. I also joined a health club and with oxygen can do many exercises. I think I can make it for a longer period. Also I love Cajun food and crawfish is the greatest food in the world."

**Zoe Hauth** writes: "I wanted to let you know of Leland's death (*see In Memoriams*). The last two years have been very busy for me and I know I got behind in our dues. I'm enclosing a check and I'm not sure that's enough but I'll look on the next newsletter for the date and finish it up then. Thank you."

**Thomas Herrett** writes: "Enclosed is a check for 2014, 2015 and 2016 dues, and the extra money is for the scholarship program. Thanks"

**Millard and Sharon Hiner** writes: "We are both doing quite well. Had some health issues this last year, but don't let them get us down for long. Then of 2013 found us at the bottom of the continent, a cruise around the horn. We just returned from a 6,000 mile road trip, to Corpus Christi, TX, looking for some sunshine, no such luck this year. We had a nice trip though and managed to miss the snow storms. In between we visited our kids; we built a home here in Missoula, MT, with a connection between our backyard and our daughter's backyard. We still have Kevin and his wife in Anchorage, AK; and, Matthew and family one hour east in Deer Lodge, MT. Millard is busy online and with falconry, and I still paint (a lot of Alaska still life). Anyone coming to Montana, we'd love to have you. We have a lovely guest room. Cheers – Millard & Sharon"

**Larry Jones** writes: "I continue to enjoy life, spending time in both Colorado and Arizona, with occasional visits to Kansas. I also continue to enjoy the newsletter. Enclosed find a check for my dues through 2015, the remainder is for general contribution as needed. Thanks to all involved in producing the newsletter."

**Clayton Kauffman** writes: "Enclosed is my check to be applied to my dues for this year."

**Sol Lang** writes: "Still hanging in here. Check is for my dues – extra is to be used at your discretion."

**Dave Madril** writes: "I apologize for the delay in my 2015 dues. Please accept this check for my dues for 2015 and the balance for the general fund. I do enjoy receiving the Newsletters in hard copy so I may read them at my leisure."

**Bernie Massey** writes: "According to my records I last paid my dues in 2009. The enclosed check should carry me through 2016"

**Pat McAlwee** writes: "Enclosed is my check for the reunion dinner in Portland, ME."

**Ken Muir** writes: "Enclosed is a check to cover my retiree's dues for 2015 and 2016."

**Carolyn Norton** writes: "Enclosed is my personal check to cover my dues for 2014, 2015, and 2016. The extra money is a small donation to be put towards the scholarship program."

**Charlie Showen** wrote to Andy Anderson: "Thanks for the call to update on the news (unfortunately, most of it sad). I'm kind of isolated here in Davidson. The nearest chapter is in Raleigh which is over a three hour drive each way. Regards to all."

**Chet Thomas** writes: "Greetings from Connecticut. Wishing all WRD retirees and current USGS personnel a happy holiday and a great healthy New Year. Enclosed are my 2015 dues."

**Ken Wahl** writes: "I believe this (2015) was paid in Dec 2014. If your records agree, I guess I'm paid through 2016. With the number of friends I see 'In Memoriums', advance payment may not be wise"

## RETIREMENTS

**Myron Brooks**, Chief of the Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility (HIF) retired on Friday, April 17, 2015.

**Michael Chornack**, after 25 years of federal service retired on December 31, 2014. Mike began his federal career with the USGS Yucca Mountain Project Branch (YMPB) in 1989. The USGS YMPB under agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) conducted geoscience site characterization activities at Yucca Mountain, NV, for the nation's first proposed nuclear waste repository. Prior to Mike joining the USGS as a federal employee, he supported USGS site characterization efforts on the Nevada Test Site and at Yucca Mountain (YM) from 1977 until 1989 under several USGS contractors. During his tenure with the USGS, he served in several capacities including holding the positions of the YMPB Unsaturated-Zone Studies Team Chief, Geologic Studies Team Chief, Hydrologic Modeling Team Chief, and Geology and Hydrology Team Chief. Under Mike's management and supervision USGS scientists collected and interpreted YM site characterization geologic and hydrologic information that was utilized by the DOE to develop the technical basis for the YM license application that was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Mike is considered an authority on the geology of Yucca Mountain and vicinity; he participated in many technical exchanges, program development and planning meetings, and oversight committee meetings; and, participated in and conducted many hydrogeology field trips at Yucca Mountain including the DOE public tours of YM. Mike supervised USGS Principal Investigators conducting saturated- and unsaturated-zone hydraulic and tracer tests at Yucca Mountain; constructing the regional model of the Death Valley groundwater flow system; and conducting geologic mapping on the surface and in the underground facilities at Yucca Mountain and the surrounding area. Mike was respected for his knowledge of the hydrogeology at Yucca Mountain and vicinity. His approach to management and supervision contributed to creating very effective multi-disciplinary geo-hydrologic teams that completed important studies for the Yucca Mountain Project and interacted efficiently with the DOE National Labs and other contract organizations. Concurrent with Mike's responsibilities for the YMPB, he also participated as a member of the USGS Afghanistan Water Resources Team from 2004 to 2014 to conduct water resource evaluations in Afghanistan. Initial work consisted of training engineers from the Afghanistan Geological Survey in modern surface and groundwater field and laboratory techniques leading to the establishment of a groundwater monitoring network in the Kabul basin. Information from this network is being used to access the water resources of the Kabul basin and to guide future development of groundwater resources in the Kabul area. Mike began working exclusively in Afghanistan after the closure of the YMPB in 2010. He worked for the USGS International Affairs Asia/Pacific Program, Mineral Resource Assessment Team. This work was conducted in cooperation with the Department of Defense Task Force for Stability Operation in Afghanistan. Mike's contributions to this group included conducting water resources studies to assess the water resources of potential mineral development areas in Afghanistan. Mike traveled to Afghanistan frequently working closely with DOD Task Force personnel and alongside colleagues from the Afghanistan Ministry of Mines and Petroleum including the Afghanistan Geological Survey. This gave him the opportunity to visit and conduct field work in many cities and rural areas in Afghanistan. He has coauthored numerous USGS reports and other papers on the hydrogeology of potential mineral development areas in Afghanistan.



**Iris Collies** has decided to retire after 30 years of dedicated service with the USGS. Iris will be looking forward to traveling, gardening, and spending more time with family and friends.



**Roger Fujii** is retiring after 31 years with the USGS on March 31, 2015. Roger's career has been marked by lasting technical contributions and foresighted science leadership. He received his BS in Soil and Water Science and MS in Water Science at the University of California, Davis, and his Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin. Roger started with the USGS California District in 1984 and has been here ever since, serving as a Chemist, Research Chemist, and Supervisory Hydrologist. Roger played an integral role in the irrigation drainage project addressing selenium issues in the western San Joaquin Valley. He led soil chemistry studies for the San Joaquin Valley Studies Team, and published several studies that had a major impact on our understanding of selenium. Roger also conducted important studies addressing trace elements and other water quality issues in the Tulare Basin; the role of natural organic matter in the formation of disinfection by-products; the potential for wetlands restoration to mitigate subsidence and sequester carbon in Delta islands; and, has played a key role in the management of the Center, serving as Program Chief for the Bay-Delta and Biogeochemistry groups. He also has provided invaluable science leadership in addressing the complex challenges of California's Bay-Delta system, engaging closely with the many agencies involved in Delta issues. Roger's career is notable not only for the great science he has conducted and led, but also for the kind and generous way that he has always treated his colleagues and co-workers. He has been a mentor to many. Hats off to Roger for his many contributions over 31 years and all the best for the next phase.



**Jay Kiesler** decided to turn off his government-furnished equipment and retire on January 3, 2015 after more than 40 years of service. Jay started working for the U.S. Geological Survey as a Hydrologic Aid in the Kentucky District while attending the University of Louisville. While in school Jay assisted District personnel with the collection and compilation of surface water records and the analysis of water temperature data. After graduation Jay started to work full time in the Kentucky District. During his time in Kentucky he wrote computer programs in support of flood studies, worked on coal hydrology projects, and a project looking at the effectiveness of rainfall, runoff, and sediment transport models. In 1987, Jay transferred to

the Tampa Subdistrict where he led the Information Management Sections. Jay oversaw the Subdistrict's computer operations, a study looking at the potential impacts of irrigation of citrus groves, and the collection and compilation of data required for monthly reports to cooperators. During 1990 Jay transferred to Reston and joined the NWIS-II development team where his focus was database design and development. During 1995 Jay transferred with the Survey to Indianapolis, IN. Continuing to utilize his computer skills while in Indiana, he developed applications for cooperators and Science Center projects. Jay's most notable contributions while in Indiana were the Automated Records Tool (ART), the Standard Methods Automated Records Tool (SMART), and support and enhancement of the Office of Safety's Inspection and Abatement System. After his retirement Jay plans to enjoy cooking, especially baking and smoking meat, photography, reading, camping, and being part of a hot air balloon team raising money for Indianapolis's Riley Children's Hospital.



**James (Jim) Kircher** is retiring June 3, 2015, with more than 38 years of Federal service. Jim began his career with the USGS in 1974, working for the Wyoming District during summers and breaks while pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University (CSU). Jim says he had the "pleasure of painting just about every doggone streamgage in Wyoming!" After receiving an M.S. in Civil Engineering from CSU in 1979, Jim transferred to the National Research Program to work on the Department's Platte River Study that focused on evaluating the effects of water use on the hydrology and morphology of the Platte River and its major tributaries. The results of several research studies from this

project were published in the Geological Survey Professional Paper, "Hydrologic and Geomorphic Studies of the Platte River Basin", of which Jim was a major author and contributor. After joining the Colorado District in 1981, Jim focused his research on sediment transport, streamflow statistics, and a national assessment of dissolved solids and nutrients in surface water. Jim's talent for leadership was noticed quickly, and in 1985 he assumed his first supervisory position as chief liaison for publication and computer programs for all water programs in Colorado. In 1987, Jim returned to his USGS roots in Wyoming where he served as the Wyoming District Chief for the next 4 years. With organizational changes in WRD on the horizon, Jim reported to Lawrence, Kansas, in 1991 to become the Midwest Area Assistant Regional Hydrologist, and in 1996 he

relocated back to Denver to serve as the Associate Regional Hydrologist for the Central Region. As the Associate, Jim helped to develop and ensure the integrity of the water programs in the Central Region, which encompassed 15 States, 49 offices, and \$100 million in program. During this time, Jim discovered his passion for mentoring employees. As an instructor for the USGS Leadership Intensive Training Program, he had the opportunity to foster leadership skills throughout all levels of the organization. With a desire to become more involved with water issues and employee development at the local level, Jim became Chief of the Colorado District in 2004. In Colorado, Jim received the Central Region Team Diversity Award for his involvement with establishing the Hydrologic Technician Recruitment Program at GateWay Community College. Most recently Jim was awarded the Safety and Health Career Achievement Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the USGS Safety and Occupational Health Program from 1974-2015. Under his leadership, the Colorado Water Science Center continues to be a highly respected organization within the water-resources community of Colorado as well as nationally within USGS. Jim continues to be a key person in the WRD Retirees Scholarship Program. His interest and leadership has made the Scholarship Program a great success and a major contribution to USGS by the WRD Retirees. Please join us in congratulating Jim on an outstanding career with the USGS.

**Fred Murphy** – Fred retired from the USGS on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Fred began his career in the NRP in 1985 working with Jim Constantz. During the past 30 years, Fred creatively fabricated innovative scientific equipment on-the-fly that allowed hydrologic measurements that were previously impossible, both in demanding pressure- and temperature-lab environments and in challenging field settings. Fred's efforts helped several NRP projects to achieve novel research goals that resulted in peer-reviewed journal papers and patents. Fred was one of the pioneers in the development and application of the Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) to monitor moisture in the unsaturated zone, developed a sample-freezing drive shoe for a piston-core sampler that enhanced numerous studies of biodegradation of contaminants in groundwater, co-developed a mini sampler for measuring pore-water solute concentrations in the hyporheic zone of sand-bottom streams, and was a co-inventor of a U.S.-patented non-metallic pore-water profiling device that provided vertical concentration gradients from Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon, and aquatic systems within the San Francisco Bay region, California. Fred also designed, developed, and deployed tools to measure hydrologic responses to climate variability in the Sierra Nevada, California. In the past decade, Fred designed and fabricated a variety of instruments for recording hydrothermal activity in Hawaii, California, and Yellowstone National Park, expanding the Volcano Hazards Program's monitoring capabilities. For the hydrothermal studies, Fred developed innovative heat-flow probes and pressure sensors for making measurements in extremely harsh and corrosive environments. During this period, Fred co-authored several papers on heat flow in Yellowstone National Park and Long Valley Caldera in Eastern California and on Yellowstone's geysers. Over the last several decades, his unselfish and varied contributions have significantly enhanced many NRP projects and contributions to many elements of the USGS mission. Thank you, Fred, and congratulations!

**Dave Rutherford** retired on March 6, 2015, after 30 years with the federal government, from the NRP Central Branch. We greatly appreciate his many years of service to the NRP as an organic geochemist and RGE scientist. Thanks Dave, and congratulations on a well-earned retirement!



**Richard W. (Rick) Saffer** retired on December 31, 2014 after 23 years of valuable service in performing hydrologic data collection and analyses functions. He began his USGS career as a hydrologic technician in the MD-DE-DC Water Science Center in 1991. Rick worked in the hydrologic data section his whole career and thus learned the whole gamut of water data-collection and analyses activities, i.e., ground water, surface water, water quality sampling, instrumentation, etc. However, in his senior years, Rick was best known for his data-base management skills serving as the Science Centers' data-base administrator and the last line of defense before hydrologic data went public. He also served as the leading hydrologic technician in knowledge of the National Water Information System (NWIS) and thus became the "gate keeper" of the Science Center's real-time data information system that was broadcasting the data to water-data users

over the internet on a daily basis. Rick was a gem of an employee with the MD-DE-DC Water Science Center, not only because he was a jeweler for 12 years before he came with the USGS, but more so for his vast knowledge of hydrologic data collection and analysis techniques that have continued to uphold the credibility of the U. S. Geological Survey.



**Robert J. "Bob" Shedlock**, retired from the USGS on January 3, 2015 after 38 years of service and holds degrees in geology from Notre Dame University and the University of Michigan. Bob's career was characterized mainly by four long-term assignments that were either high-profile projects or jobs that were of utmost importance to a science center and the USGS. Bob started his first permanent job with the USGS in the Indianapolis, Indiana in 1976. He was project chief of a study to determine the hydrology of a large wetland area in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore near Chicago. The initial concern was that a proposed nuclear power plant might pump excessive ground water for cooling that could dry out the wetlands and cause irreversible damage to the fauna and flora of the system. The power plant was squelched by an environmental movement, but the results of the study greatly enhanced the knowledge in hydrology on wetland systems. One of the NAWQA ground-water study units, used as a pilot study, was the Delmarva Peninsula located in parts of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. This high pressure and high visibility study began in 1986, was housed in Towson MD and was headed up by Bob Shedlock who transferred from Indianapolis. Bob quickly assembled a study team made up of existing District staff and new hires, mostly from Universities. In addition to the usual technical tasks associated with project management, this highly scrutinized project consisted of setting up field trips and presentations for dignitaries such as Interior Department employees, headquarters WRD and Directors Office employees as well as numerous state and local Water Authority employees. Even more significant were several trips to Capitol Hill to brief Congress on progress. This public relations aspect of the job fell right into one of Bob's many strengths. Progress was always substantial and technically sound. When the Delmarva pilot study went into a low intensity phase, Bob accepted the position of Chief Hydrologic Resource and Assessment Section in the Maryland- Delaware-D.C. District, which encompassed supervision of about 30 employees and responsibility for managing about a third or more of the technical program of the District. Along with this change in job function, came the title of Associate District Chief, Program Planning ( another of Bob's strengths) for the MD-DE-DC District, which soon there-after became the Maryland-Delaware-DC Water Science Center. In 2010, Bob was selected as the Director of the MD-DE-DC Science Center, where he managed a program of approximately \$10 million and 100 employees. One of Bob's legacy programs was taking the lead in the development of the Maryland Water Monitoring Committee, which was made up of numerous water data users in Maryland, who set priorities for water data monitoring in Maryland, which is still in existence today. He was in the position until he retired. A retirement function was held on his behalf on February 18, 2015. Bob, who will continue to work on a voluntary basis for the foreseeable future, will be missed by the USGS family.



**Dan Snyder** retired from USGS Oregon Water Science Center after 27 years of service on March 31, 2015. Dan's retirement leaves a gap in the Center that will not easily be filled. His versatility, insight, and ability to anticipate the needs of cooperators are skills that were acquired and honed over his long career. He leaves as his legacy an influential body of scientific work of the highest degree. Dan spent his career working on projects funded, in part, by the USGS Cooperative Water Program. He took the role of providing high-quality scientific assistance to state and local entities very seriously and took great pride in providing his cooperators with more information and utility than they anticipated. Dan began his career with USGS as recent college graduate in the Eugene, Oregon subdistrict office in 1988. This one-room science center, located in space shared with the geology department at the University of Oregon, was an early experiment in university co-location. The office closed in 1989 and Dan relocated to Portland, Oregon where he spent the rest of his career. Dan's early-career studies centered on the groundwater hydrology of the Portland metropolitan area, and included important work on natural and artificial recharge, aquifer vulnerability, water table mapping, and the role of groundwater in localized flooding. Dan regularly fielded questions related to this work through the end of his career – more than 20 years after the first report was published. Dan expanded his geographic scope of work in the second half of his career, working on a large study of the groundwater resources of the Columbia Plateau and a relatively small project in the Wood

River valley near Klamath Falls. It was the latter project that led to additional work which ultimately consumed much of Dan's time in the later years of his career. Shortly after Dan's important work on nitrogen and phosphorus mobilization in drained and reclaimed wetlands in the Klamath Basin, the USGS' and Dan's involvement in the Klamath Basin expanded as water shortages catapulted the basin into the national news. Dan's greatest contribution and legacy in the basin will undoubtedly be his pioneering use of remotely sensed evapotranspiration data to help quantify and understand water use and potential water savings in managed, irrigated farmland. Dan was always on the forefront of adopting and applying the latest technology either to conduct science or to make it more accessible to his cooperators and the public. Over his career he developed a number of tools to make scientific information more accessible and useful to the management community, including a web-based map to query and display groundwater level information for the Portland area and a ArcMap GIS tool that married LiDAR and relatively straightforward raster processing to provide customized, easily accessible maps of water level, inundated area, and volume of water in managed lakes. Dan leaves the USGS with a series of highly-regarded publications, awards, and accolades from within and outside the Center. His friends and colleagues at the Oregon Water Science Center wish him a happy retirement and many years of good health and exciting travels with his wife, Yasuko. In the immediate future Dan will volunteer at the Center wrapping up loose ends and focusing his energy on the scientific ventures that most interest him. Now free to roam the world, Dan is looking forward to returning to Japan to explore the country and visit family. You may also bump into him on Oah'u, if Yasuko gets her way. Happy trails, Dan, and thank you for 27 years of superior Federal service. You can reach Dan at his personal email: [dan from oregon@msn.com](mailto:dan_from_oregon@msn.com)



**Craig Solberg** began his career with the USGS in April, 1980. In his years as a Hydrologic Technician in the Pierre Office of the South Dakota Water Science Center, Craig has collected over 3,100 discharge measurements. The first recorded discharge measurements were on July 13 1981 at the West Fork Vermillion River near Parker and Skunk Creek at Sioux Falls. Craig's largest discharge measurements were in June, 2011 on the Missouri River including 171,000 cfs near Ft. Thompson and 152,000 cfs at Pierre.

Craig's largest wading measurements were in May, 1982 at the Cheyenne River at Cherry Creek and April, 1999 at the James River near Yankton, both at 3,310 cfs. Years that likely will stay in Craig's memory for a long time are 1995, 1997, 2008, and 2011. These floods also include some challenging weather including cold, ice, wind, and snow. Craig was involved in the second highest measurement ever at James River near Mitchell (25,500 cfs) in April 1997 as well as the highest measurement ever at the Elm River near Ordway in March 2009 and numerous other high flows like the peak on the Moreau River near Whitehorse. We are hoping we don't break those records any time soon and are thankful to Craig for being out there to collect them. Craig looks forward to his retirement with more time for fishing, hunting, and enjoying the beauty of South Dakota. A going away party for Craig was held on February 5, 2015 in Pierre.

**NL167S -- Supplement Contents:** American Water Resources Association Newsletter; and, National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, 2015 Insurance Premium Increase

**New Director, Maryland - Delaware - DC Water Science Center  
Baltimore, Maryland**



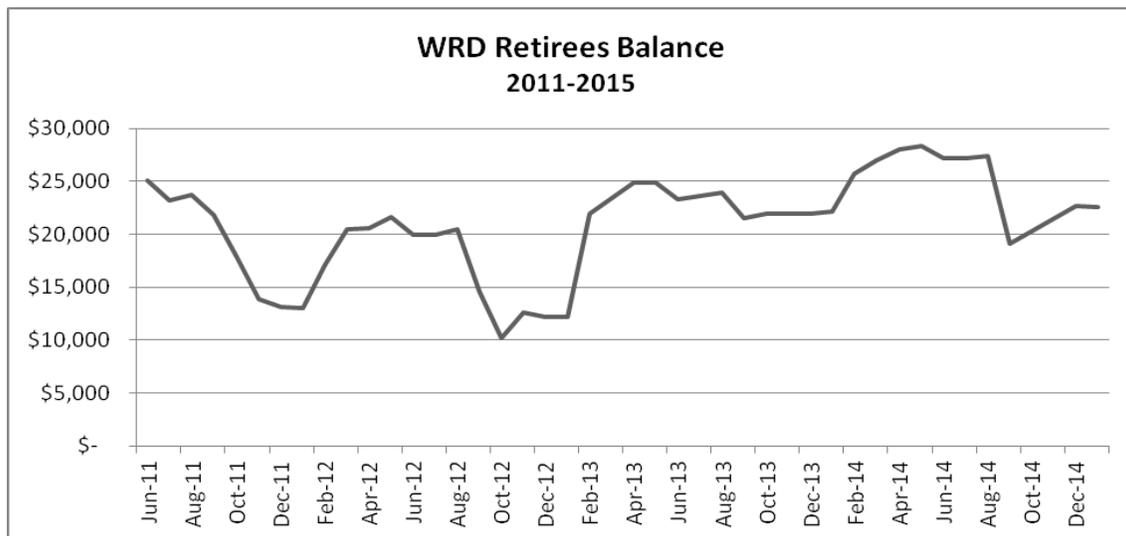
**Mary Kay Foley** has been selected as the new Director, Maryland – Delaware- DC Water Science Center, Baltimore, Maryland. Mary Kay is a native of Buffalo, New York and has earned Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. She is a licensed Professional Engineer and a certified Project Management Professional. Mary Kay began her career with the Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District where she was a hydrologic investigator and groundwater specialist on water resources and hazardous waste projects, including project engineer and project manager duties for large remediation projects. Mary Kay also had extensive experience in working with the media, stakeholders, regulatory agencies and Congress during her 11 year tenure at the Buffalo Corps. She was recognized as the Buffalo Corps employee of the year in 2002 and was also selected for a 1 year detail in Washington, DC as liaison between the Corps Headquarters and USEPA Headquarters developing Superfund policy and guidance and participating on their contaminated sediments work group. Mary Kay then spent the next 12 years working as a Corps of Engineers Employee in Germany. She spent the first 5 years as the Environmental Chief at the Manheim Army Garrison, that included administering 19 environmental programs and extensive coordination and outreach efforts related to land and species conservation, spill response and remediation plans. For the next 7 years, Mary Kay managed the U.S. Army’s environmental cleanup and remediation program at U.S. Army bases across all of Europe. On February 9, 2015, after Germany, Mary Kay came to the USGS as the eighth District Chief/ Director of the Maryland-Delaware-DC Program since the Major USGS WRD reorganization of the early 1960’s. She also made history as the first female Director of the program in that more than 50 year period. We welcome Mary Kay and her husband, Joseph, to Baltimore and wish her all the best on her new job.

**TREASURER' S REPORT, FIRST QUARTER 2015**

Treasurer Celso Puente reports that the organization had \$22,581 in its treasury at the end of the first quarter for calendar year 2015. Receipts for the quarter were \$710.56 from dues and contributions from 34 members. Distributions for the quarter were \$794.10, including the cost for the printing of the WRD Retirees Newsletter. During the quarter, a total of \$75.00 in contributions above dues was received from 5 members.

**Special thanks for contributions above dues go to:**

Larry L. Jones, Thomas Herrett, John H. Lambing, Kenneth Muir, and Charles Bryant.



## IN MEMORIAMs

**Evelyn H. Beamer, 100** (widow of **Norman Beamer**), passed away on March 11, 2015 in Ithaca, NY. She married Norman Beamer of Manor, PA in 1940 – who predeceased her. While Norman was serving the Navy during WWII, she worked as an analyst for the Navy in San Francisco, CA. They resided in Drexel Hill, PA from 1946 to 1968. And, in 1968, Norman became the District Chief of the Water Resources Division in Harrisburg, PA. Evelyn is survived by her son and his wife; a daughter and her husband; and, three grandsons. Memorial services will be held at a future time.



**Harlan B. Counts, 93**, passed away on October 15, 2014 in Conyers, GA. He was born October 8, 1921 to Otis and Marie Counts in Wesley, AR. Harlan and Margaret Meinecke were married September 22, 1945 in Grand Island, Nebraska, while he was in the Air Force. After Harlan was discharged from the Air Force, he returned to college at the University of Arkansas and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering in June, 1949. Harlan began working for the U.S. Geological Survey and continued working until his retirement in 1980. Harlan dedicated his work to the fresh water supply for our country. Harlan was a perfectionist about everything. He loved cooking, gardening, fishing, golfing and model trains. He loved his family and friends. He is survived by his sister-in-law; his two nephews and one niece. He will be missed by many friends and relatives. Memorial services for Harlan were held on Saturday, October 25, 2014 in Conyers, GA.



**Bruce L. Foxworthy, 89**, passed away on Saturday, January 17, 2015. Born in Spokane, WA on December 30, 1925, Bruce grew up during the Great Depression in the Entiat River Valley of Central Washington. There, he developed his lifelong fascination with nature and his love for what he called the “voices of the river.” He was the son of Gerald L. Foxworthy, longtime apple rancher and trucker in the Entiat area, and Alma L. (Bedient) Foxworthy. His paternal grandparents were early settlers in the Entiat Valley from the Midwest, arriving at “Old Entiat” on a Columbia River steamboat in 1902. Bruce graduated from Entiat High School in 1943. He then enlisted in the Navy, serving on a destroyer in the Western Pacific until the end of World War II. After receiving his degree in Geology from the University of Washington (1946-50), Bruce joined the U.S. Geological Survey for a career as Geologist and Hydrologist that spanned more than 33 years and took him throughout the U.S. and to several foreign countries. During that period, he married and became the father of two daughters and two sons. He headed up the WRD’s part of the Puget Sound Area Urban Study of the USGS Land Information and Analysis Office. While there he authored, along with Mary Hill, “Volcanic Eruptions of 1980 at Mt. St. Helens – The first 100 days”. The latter part of his technical career included management of earth-science research, consulting for other agencies, and technical writing and editing. In retirement, Bruce had the great good fortune of finding and marrying his high-school sweetheart, Cleo (Buckley). Along with sharing travels and camping with Cleo, he continued consulting and a wide range of writing. He authored or coauthored ten books, nine book chapters and numerous articles, research reports and short stories. Survivors include wife, Cleo; two sons; and, a step-daughter. Bruce valued clear expression and innovative achievement. He seemed to be just as pleased with the achievements of friends and coworkers as with his own.



**Theodore K. (Kim) Greeman** passed on Saturday morning April 11, 2015 after several years of ill health. Kim was a graduate of the Department of Geological Sciences of the Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis, IN. In 2006, he received the Distinguished Service Award of the Professional Geologists of Indiana in recognition of his exemplary contributions to the science and profession of geology in Indiana. He was an organizing and motivational force behind the Indiana Geologists and was recognized in 2013 for his central role in arranging speakers for their meetings. During his multi-decade career with the U.S. Geological Survey, Kim had lead or critical supporting roles in many studies that advanced understanding of the groundwater hydrology of Indiana. His proudest professional accomplishment may have been his work to describe the hydrogeology of the Maumee River Basin, Upper Wabash River Basin, and East Fork White River Basin in chapters of the “1994 Hydrogeologic Atlas of Aquifers in Indiana”. His insights and publications on the relation of surface lineaments to water bearing features in the carbonate bedrock of southwestern Indiana guided water well drillers to successfully establish reliable groundwater supplies for homes and businesses;

his work on the hydrology and geology of northwestern Indiana interpreted groundwater-surface-water interactions between the Calumet aquifer and the Grand Calumet River/Indiana Harbor Canal system which explained transient flow conditions in ways that helped guide remediation of groundwater quality and impaired sediment and separation of combined sewers today. His 1996 maps of man-made fill thickness, type and sequence in northwestern Indiana were recently rereleased as digital files by the USGS because of their continued use to evaluate and design restoration strategies for those lands; his hydrologic and geologic work continues to underpin the restoration of aquatic ecosystems in northwestern Indiana; and, his co-authored publication on hydrogeology and groundwater quality near landfills in the Indianapolis area guided decisions to properly monitor, close and observe those facilities. Through his work with USGS and other colleagues, he supported many other investigations and efforts to advance the understanding of the hydrology and geology of Indiana. Most importantly, through his energetic support of answering information requests received by the USGS, he communicated useful descriptions and interpretations of geologic and hydrologic science to professionals and average people alike in ways that were understandable, relatable, informative and helpful. He was preceded in death by the love of his life Cornelia Zeman and is mourned in his passing by his many friends and professional colleagues. In his personal life, he was a fun and lively companion, a man of eclectic musical and other interests in the natural world, a passionate coin collector, a dog and cat lover, and a personal and professional friend throughout Indiana.



**Leland D. Hauth, 79**, passed away on October 14, 2014 after a courageous battle with Alzheimer. He was born on November 17, 1934 to Wrex and Imogene Hauth in San Bernardino, CA. On November 18, 1954 he married Zoe Anne Robertson. After his service in the US Navy he attended the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, Rolla, MO, graduating with a degree in Civil Engineering. Leland retired from the US Geological Survey, Water Resources Division in 1989. Leland was preceded in death by his parents and one brother. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Zoe Anne, two sons and a daughter and their respective spouses; seven grandchildren, and, two great grandchildren. A memorial service is planned for early summer 2015.



**Ralph C. Heath, 89**, passed away on January 12, 2015 in Raleigh, NC. He was born on July 10, 1925, in Lenoir County, NC, the son of William Curt and Lucy Daugherty Heath. Ralph entered UNC Chapel Hill on July 1, 1943, as a member of the first U.S. Navy V-12 program and was commissioned as an Ensign at the New York Midshipman School at Columbia University on April 23, 1945. His naval career included serving as navigator, gunnery, and supply officer on Yard Minesweeper 218 during minesweeping operations at Pusan, Korea, and at Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands in preparation for the Operation Crossroads atomic-bomb tests. After his discharge from the Navy he returned to UNC Chapel Hill, receiving a BS degree in geology in 1948. During a career as a hydrogeologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) from 1948 to 1982, he worked in Florida, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and North Carolina. His positions in the USGS (Water Resources Division) included that of Acting District Engineer in Tallahassee, District Geologist in Albany for New York and southern New England, District Chief of New York, and District Chief in Raleigh for North Carolina. While serving as District Chief in Albany he taught courses in groundwater hydrology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Following retirement from the Geological Survey in 1982, Ralph began a second career as a consulting hydrogeologist. He also became an Adjunct Professor of Civil Engineering at NC State University, Lecturer in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Duke University, and Adjunct Professor of Geology at East Carolina University. He taught courses in groundwater hydrology at NC State and Carolina in the 1980's and at Duke into the 1990's. Later, he taught short courses in the Duke Senior Executive Program, for the National Research Council in Denver, CO, for the NC State University Soil Science Department, and for Olson Enterprises. He was the author or co-author of more than 70 scientific publications, including an introductory groundwater textbook and hydrogeologic maps of the United States and of North America. His USGS publication entitled Basic Ground-water Hydrology has been printed 10 times, and translated versions have been printed in both Germany and Brazil. His professional honors include the Distinguished Lecturer and the Henry Darcy Distinguished Lecturer of the National Ground Water Association, the first Founders Award of the American Institute of Hydrology, Award for Distinguished Service in Hydrogeology of the Geological

Society of America, and the Meritorious Service Award of the U.S. Department of the Interior. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Martha, whom he met in Miami, FL in 1945 while attending the Navy's Advanced Line Officers School and whom he married in 1947. Survivors include his son and daughter; and four grandchildren. A funeral service was held on Sunday, January 18, 2015, interment followed at Raleigh Memorial Park Mausoleum.



**James W. Hood, Sr., 85**, passed away on August 12, 2011 in Salt Lake City, UT. James was born to Warren Hood and Hilda Beyer on November 18, 1925 in Houston, TX. After an honorable discharge from the US Army in 1945, he graduated from the University of Texas. Then he went to work for the U.S. Geological Survey as a hydrologist until his retirement in 1984. He was preceded in death by his wife Eva (April 2009) and his parents. James is survived by a daughter and two sons and their respective spouses; 15 grandchildren, and, 4 great grandchildren.

Viewing was held on August 16, 2011, and burial was in Austin, TX on August 20, 2011.



**Irene M. (Coggins) Koester, 87** (widow of **Harry E. Koester**) passed away on December 23, 2014. Irene was born to John and Anna Coggins on May 22, 1927 in Scranton, PA. Irene was retired from the State where she had worked for the Department of Revenue. Irene was preceded in death by her husband and six siblings. She is survived by her three children from her first marriage; six step children; eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held on December 26, 2014.



**Glenn Laidlaw, 63**, of Riverton, WY died at his home on Sunday, February 22, 2015. Glenn was born on January 15, 1952 in Los Angeles, CA to Malcolm and Donna Mae (Peterson) Laidlaw. He was one of five children and was raised in Southern California. After graduating from Alhambra High School, he attended East Los Angeles College where he graduated with an Associate's Degree in Science. He also attended California State University Los Angeles where he worked on his Bachelors' of Science degree. On August 2, 1975 he married Kathleen Irma Tolman in the Los Angeles CA Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Together they had six children. In 1978 the family moved to Cheyenne, WY, and then in 1983 the family moved to Riverton where they made their home and raised their family. He was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources Division and retired after 30 years of service, the last ten years spent as the supervisor of the Riverton office. Glenn was a geologist, an avid mineral and jade collector, an expert in mineral identification, and, a member of the Riverton Gem and Mineral Society. His family shares that he was a skilled outdoorsman and an adventurer. He loved water sports and deep sea fishing. When he was not in the wild outdoors, he loved spending time with family, gardening, socializing, helping, and teaching many people in many different ways. He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Kathleen, of the family home; his 3 sons; his 2 daughters; his father; his brother; his two sisters; and, his thirteen grandchildren. Glen was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A funeral service was held on Saturday, February 28, 2015. Burial followed the funeral service at Mountain View Cemetery.



**Marlin Edwin Lowry, 84**, of Cheyenne, WY died January 12, 2015. He was born to Frank and Alice (Goodie) Lowry on April 14, 1930. Before joining USGS, he served in the U.S. Army. After retiring as a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in 1987, Marlin moved to Oman, Jordan to take his expertise on water issues to the desert. Marlin will always be remembered for teaching others the "elevator dance," the songs and poetry he recited with considerable enthusiasm, culinary masterpieces (even if inedible), homemade wines known both for the their full flavor and their ability to redesign a room when the cork blew, and for the one banjo tune he knew and he could play with gusto. No one was ever a stranger to Marlin. Marlin was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, and, his companion of many years. He is survived by his former wife; his daughter and his two sons; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Cremation has taken place at Cheyenne Memorial Gardens, and a private memorial service will be held this spring in a style befitting Marlin's life.



**James 'Jim' W. Mercer, Jr. (67)**, died peacefully on March 11, 2015 after a seven-month battle with gallbladder cancer in Great Falls, VA. Born and raised in Panama City, FL. Jim graduated from Bay High in 1965, attended Gulf Coast Community College and Florida State University, receiving his bachelor's in 1969 with Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude honors. He then earned a doctorate in geology from the University of Illinois in 1973. In 1972, Jim joined the U.S. Geological Survey in Washington, D.C., where he worked as a hydrogeologist with a focus on groundwater research. In 1979, he co-founded GeoTrans, Inc. with his business partner, Charles Faust, where he worked on cleaning up Superfund sites, including Love Canal. The company was purchased by Tetra Tech in the late 1980s, where Jim became executive vice president. Jim was passionate about his work and about sharing his love of science and the natural world. While at Bay High, he met a USGS researcher who sparked in him an interest in hydrogeology. Jim's avocation would become his vocation. Jim also became an avid golfer and an author of several novels: "The Scrolls: The Missing Eighteen Years", "The Volcano That Changed the World" and "The Tsunami That Reshaped America". A fourth novel is in the works and will be published posthumously. He leaves his wife of 34 years, Maria (Misia) Wieckowski Mercer; his stepson and wife, and their two children; and many friends and colleagues. A celebration of Jim's life with his family and friends was held at River Bend Golf & Country Club in Great Falls, VA, on April 11, 2015.

**Unetta "Dickie" (Thompson) Moore, 82** (wife of retiree **John Moore**) passed away on February 9, 2015 in Denver, CO. Dickie was born in Los Angeles, CA in May of 1932 to Richard and Unetta Thompson. After a Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Mount Holyoke College with a major in Spanish she earned an MA from the University of New Mexico. She married John E. Moore in 1956. They met in Albuquerque, NM, while she was working towards her first Master's Degree. John was in the Air Force studying at the Atomic Energy Commission. They married in the Mount Holyoke Chapel in South Hadley, MA. In 1960 she earned a second MA in Spanish and French, and went on to complete a PhD in Spanish from the University of Illinois. John accepted a research position with the US Geological Survey (USGS), after she graduated and they moved to Longmont, CO in 1960. Dickie had a teaching position at Colorado State University in Fort Collins and she also taught at the Colorado Women's College. While in Colorado they adopted their children, Pamela and Sean. They later lived in Tampa, FL for three years; and when John was transferred to the USGS then enjoyed living in Reston, VA for 12 years. She lived her retired life with John in Denver, CO, a place that the family had always thought of as home. She and John traveled the world extensively. She is survived by her husband John; a daughter and a son; and, four grandchildren. She will be remembered for her lifelong love of Standard Poodles. She was an accomplished artist, always perfecting her watercolor and printmaking skills, even dabbling in fiber work.

**Frank "Red" O. Morris (84)**, passed away on January 3, 2014, at his home in Southport, NC. Frank was born on November 6, 1929, to Everette Lee Morris Sr. and Goldie Jerrell Morris in Sumter, SC. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in WWII as a member of the 82nd Airborne. He attended Clemson University on the GI Bill, graduating in 1952 with a degree in civil engineering. He retired from the U.S. Geological Survey and also retired from the State of North Carolina Department of Public Health – Water Resources Division. Frank was a member of the Elk's Lodge and a member of The Lakes Golf Club in Boiling Spring Lakes. He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Hazel Ruth Duckett Morris; and, a sister. He is survived by his two sons and a daughter; two brothers and a sister; seven grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and, one great-granddaughter. A memorial service was held on January 7, 2014, at the Peacock-Newnam & White Funeral Service.



**Franklin (Frank) H. Olmsted, 93**, died on March 14, 2015 after a short illness in Santa Clara, CA. Born on November 23, 1921 in Los Angeles, CA, he was raised by his parents Geraldine and Franklin in Los Angeles area. He attended Citrus Junior College, transferring in 1940 to Pomona College where he studied geology and enlisted in the USNR V-7, graduating in December 1942. He received his Navy commission in April 1943, and then taught navigation, aircraft identification and close order infantry drill to student officers at Ft. Schuyler, Bronx, NY. He transferred to the naval complex on Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay where he was finally discharged in June 1946. Frank then took a refresher course in field geology given by Stanford University and

enrolled at Claremont Graduate School, obtaining an MA in geology in June 1948 with a thesis on geology and oil prospects of an area in the western San Jose Hills. In 1949, he began working for the USGS in Sacramento, CA, doing geologic and ground-water studies at places ranging from San Clemente Island to Solano County. Jean Morosco and Frank married in San Francisco in 1955, and honeymooned in Death Valley. A daughter was born in 1956 and a son in 1959, following Frank's transfer to the Upper Darby, PA office to assist in a study of the water resources of the Delaware River Basin. While working there, Frank studied for a PhD in geology at Bryn Mawr College, graduating in June 1961. Following a brief assignment to Idaho Falls to assist in a ground-water study of the AEC's National Reactor Test Station, a stay made memorable by the floods of February 1962. Later that year, he transferred to Yuma, AZ, to assist in studies of the water resources of the lower Colorado River Basin and the Imperial Valley area. From time to time, his group would meet with members of the International Boundary and Water Commission (Mexican and U.S.) to provide estimates of the quality and quantity of ground and surface water moving across the border. In 1969, Franklin transferred to the Atlantic Coast Region of the Water Resources Division to assume duties of staff advisor to the Regional Hydrologist for ground-water at the USGS headquarters in Arlington, VA. While working in Arlington, Franklin reviewed reports from all the state district offices from Maine to Florida (and Puerto Rico), visited most of the offices, and, with a ground-water specialist from the Ground Water Branch, advised the Regional Hydrologist on how to improve the ground-water studies. Also, he set up a monitoring program with WRD District Offices in several western states to determine how the operation of several proposed coal-fired steam-electric power plants would affect the surface and ground waters in the region. In 1972, Franklin transferred to the Menlo Park Regional headquarters when a position opened up in a new expanded geothermal-research program, and from 1972 until his retirement in 1988, he studied several geothermal areas in Nevada in collaboration with geologists, chemists, and geophysicists from the Geologic Division of the USGS and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and with hydro-geologists from the Nevada District office of the USGS in Carson City. After retiring, Jean and Frank traveled from China to Ecuador and from New Zealand to England. He volunteered from 1994 until recently in Foothills Park, Palo Alto's nature preserve in the foothills of the northern Santa Cruz Mountains, clearing trails, helping to clear invasive plants, and working with students from local high schools. He led occasional nature hikes, including a Sense of Place hike that landed him and his group on the front page of a 2007 issue of the Palo Alto Weekly in which he was quoted explaining how the straightening of Boronda Creek had affected the water table (and thus the native plant communities). He and Jean were regular attendees at the WRD Retirees luncheons at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge. Frank is survived by his wife, daughter, son, one brother, and many other family members and friends. He used to say the Navy had treated him well and the Survey had too; they hope to honor the example he set of faithful work and service in return.



**Paul L. Rettman, 81**, passed away on February 9, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. Paul was born on July 3, 1933 in Wichita Falls, TX, to Carl A. Rettman and Gano May Staley. He was one of seven children raised on a farm in Panhandle, TX. Paul served in the Army during the Korean War before returning to TX and attending a technical school to study drafting. His hydrologic career began with the TX Board of Water Engineers in the late 1950s collecting data about the Ogallala Aquifer. Eventually, the aquifer work led him to a position with the USGS, WRD in the San Antonio office. Paul spent most of his time processing the data he collected, but his real love was being in the field, collecting test samples, measuring test-well levels and gathering other data for water management. He met his future wife (Emma) at a church function and they were married in 1961. After retiring from the USGS in 1992, he and his wife traveled throughout the United States, mostly by automobile. He volunteered extensively with the American Cancer Society, to speak in support of increased funding for research. He is survived by his wife and daughter, and, a brother and sister. Services were held the week after his passing.



**Wallace 'Pete' F. Shelton, 78**, passed away on February 11, 2015. Pete, as he was popularly known, was born on May 28, 1936 in Redding, CA to Fred and Mary Shelton. He died at Mercy Hospital the result of a traffic accident. Pete graduated from Anderson High School in 1952. In 1955 he graduated from Shasta College with an AA Degree in Heavy Duty Mechanics. Pete worked as a choker setter for a logging company. In the fall of 1955, he enlisted in the Navy spending two years as radio man aboard the USS Whitehurst DE634. He was discharged in 1957. Once again in civilian life, he worked setting chokers for a logging company. Then he was hired by WRD to install stream flow gaging stations on the Trinity River and Coffee Creek. He began a career in the

USGS as a Hydro-Tech in Sacramento and was transferred to the Redding office in 1959. He returned to Sacramento in 1964 to take charge of constructing stream flow gaging stations throughout the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. During 1974 the Redding Field Office Chief position became available and he accepted the position. He retired from the USGS in May 1991. Pete always liked to stay busy -- drove the mail truck for Matheson Postal Inc. on the Trinity County run from 2004 to 2011; in 2011 he started driving the water truck for Bundy and Sons Logging retiring because of health issues in 2014. He and Pat Phillips, his companion of 25 years, traveled much of the United States and cruised many interesting places around the world. Pete is survived by a son and a daughter; 3 sisters and a brother; 3 granddaughters; and, six great-grandchildren, as well as his devoted companion, Pat and many, many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, two former wives, as well as his great-grandson. All who knew him will miss one of the most giving, generous, helpful "Mr. fix-it" persons on this Earth who loved to talk on the phone, Email, greet you with "Top of the morning to you" and who always had a message to live by on his answering machine. Pete was a 50 year member of the Elks Lodge #1073, and a member of the Shasta Historical Society. A Naval Salute was held at the Igo Veterans Cemetery, February 26th, 2015. A Celebration of Life Reception for Pete was held at the Fairway Oaks Mobile Park, Anderson, CA.



**Charles R. Showen, 86**, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2015, after a brief illness. Charles was born on October 14, 1928 in Spencer, WV, the only child of the late Rufus and Beulah (Rhodes) Showen. He graduated from Elkins High School and Davis and Elkins College, Elkins WV. As a college student, he began working for the US Geological Survey in Elkins, WV and spent over 40 years, his entire working career, as a water quality engineer with the WRD. He married the love of his life on November 28, 1952, the late Barbara Showen of Norton, WV. He was transferred to Washington, D.C. in 1957, and worked at the DC office before there was a headquarters in Reston, VA, and retired in 1987. Charles and his wife lived in Arlington Virginia for more than 50 years, and attended Clarendon United Methodist Church for more than 50 years. He moved to Davidson, NC in 2009 to be closer to his family. Charles is survived by his daughter and her husband; and, two granddaughters. A graveside service celebrating his life was held Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the Maplewood Cemetery at Elkins, WV. Internment followed the services.

**Joe C. Wallace, 80**, passed away January 26, 2015 in Cheyenne, WY. He was born October 8, 1934, in Amarillo, TX. He attended Georgia Military Academy, spending 10 years in the U.S. Marine Corps as both an active Marine and a reservist. In addition, he served four years in the U.S. Coast Guard as port security. He also attended the University of Connecticut in Mansfield, CT. Joe worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for 36 years, retiring in 1996. With USGS, he twice rafted down the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon. During his tenure, he published several reports on groundwater and surface water relationships. In his spare time, he volunteered for Cheyenne Frontier Days Concession Committee and was a CFD HEEL. Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Sue (Koons) Wallace; three daughters; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. At Joe's request, services will be private. But Joe says to all his friends, "Have a good one. Catch you down the road, good to go!"

**Sammy Lee Wilbourn, 73**, passed away Sunday, February 15, 2015 in Diamondhead, MS. Sammy was born in Water Valley, MS on October 23, 1941 to Samuel O. & Faye J. Wilbourn. He retired from the U.S. Geological Survey after nearly 35 years of service. He was a member of Lakeshore Baptist Church and Gideon's International. He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda K. Wilbourn, and his parents. Sammy is survived by three daughters; 10 grandchildren; and, one great-grandchild. A memorial service was held on February 19, 2015 at Lakeshore Baptist Church in Lakeshore, MS.

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### \*GETTING OLDER\*

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office. "Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?" "Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied, "I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked 'NO REFILLS'.."

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia, he asked to speak to his son. "Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best, and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."

### **Aging:**

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. This is so true. I love to hear them say "you don't look that old."

The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me! I want people to know why I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper...

it's worse when you forget to pull it down.

Two guys, one old, one young, are pushing their carts around WalMart when they collide.

The old guy says to the young guy, "Sorry about that. I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn't paying attention to where I was going." The young guy says, "That's OK, it's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too... I can't find her and I'm getting a little desperate."

The old guy says, "Well, maybe I can help you find her... what does she look like?"

The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 years old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, is buxom...wearing no bra, long legs, and is wearing short shorts. What does your wife look like?"

To which the old guy says, "It doesn't matter, lets' look for yours."