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Herbert Andrew "Andy" Williams 1930-1998

A Loving Tribute To A Husband, Father, Grandfather, Friend

by Melody A. Frye



Andy Williams

Springer has truly suffered a great loss: A husband, a father, a grandfather, a friend and a dedicated community member.

On July 18, 1998, after a long and courageous battle with cancer, Herbert Andrew "Andy" Williams passed away at Miners' Colfax Medical Center.

Andy was born in Springer, NM on March 4, 1930. His parents, B.F. and Bertha Williams had moved to Springer in 1925 from Model, CO. The youngest of four children, Andy was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Clair Emerson Williams and Richard F. Williams. He moved with his parents to Interior, SD in 1941, completing High School there and going on to attend college in Huron, SD. At the young age of 14 he started work for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Interior as a telegrapher. In 1955 Andy married Phyllis Estelle Starnes. Their marriage was blessed with four children: Herbert Andrew

"Drew" Williams, Jr. in 1956, Antoinette Marie Williams in 1957, Mary Katrina Williams in 1961 and Melody Ann Williams in 1968. He stayed with the Southern Pacific Railroad until his retirement in 1987 at which time he lived in Martinez, CA. He then moved to Anaheim, CA to take over a landscaping business but quickly grew tired of the pollution and crowded streets of Anaheim. In 1990 he received a call from his brother Richard who had just moved to Springer and purchased the Springer News Bulletin. Richard had bought the Bulletin as a way to pass his retirement and now discovered it was a little more work than he had anticipated. Andy put the house in Anaheim up for sale and one long year later Andy, Phyllis and Melody Williams were on their way to Springer to help with the Bulletin.

In the seven years that Andy lived in Springer he contributed to the community in many ways. He joined the Chamber of Commerce and was President. He ran for and was elected to a Trustee position on the Town Council where he became liaison to many worthy organizations

such as the Library Board, Springer Volunteer Ambulance, and the Springer Senior Citizens. He was a member of the Springer Lions Club, a supporter of Springer's youth, and basically offered a helping hand to anyone who needed anything.

He always spoke lovingly and glowingly of his wonderful wife Phyllis who had shared 43 years of good times and bad with him and who had never failed to support him in anything he wished to accomplish. Even toward the end of his fight Phyllis was always a main concern of his.

The love, pride and respect he had for his children and grandchildren always shone from his eyes when he spoke of them. He truly felt that his family was the whole core of his being.

He was a big man with a big heart of gold. Even when his body was failing him in the end it was his heart that went on and on.

Andy will be sorely missed by all who really knew him.

The sun may shine a little less brightly, but the world and Springer is a better place because my Daddy walked here for a while.

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