

Kenneth McCoy was born to William Earl and Laura Mae “Peggy” McCoy on June 28, 1933. He died at home in Farmington, N.M., on Feb. 19, 2011, after a battle with congestive heart failure.



McCoy

In 1952, Kenneth graduated from Bayfield (Colo.) High. He told his family “I had to walk to school bare footed in the snow and uphill both ways.” While in school he was active in sports especially basketball and played varsity starting in the eighth grade.

Kenneth, not being an angel, told stories of putting an outhouse or two on the roof of the school, and a few animals from time to time. That had to be a lot of work and planning since the roof was above a gymnasium. There were other pranks done that he admitted to his family.

He attended Fort Lewis, but realized early on, college life was not for him.

Shortly after leaving college, he worked for the LaPlata Electric Association with his father before enlisting in the United States Air Force. During his four years in the Air Force, he was stationed in Tulle, Greenland and Clovis, N.M.

While stationed in Clovis, he met and married Joan Turner in Aztec, N.M. And after an honorable discharge in 1957, the family moved back to Bayfield.

After returning to Bayfield he went back to work for the LaPlata Electric Association in April of 1957. He retired after 38 years in 1995. He said probably those he worked with were glad he retired as he liked to “add” to their sandwiches or bolted their lunch bucket down to the stairs.

During his life he was active with the city council, even was the mayor of Bayfield for a term. He was a member of the Bayfield Roping Club, the Elks, he and his wife danced with a square dance group, helped Santa Claus on Christmas Eve for the Lions

Club and was involved in the church, high school rodeos and many other groups.

He enjoyed fly fishing, hunting, gathering cattle with the Barnwells and the Pachecos, and others. He also enjoyed hunting and going on a pack trip or two. He was a man of many traits and could repair just about anything. He was most recently known for the rope projects he made.

Kenneth was known by many for his great smile and caring ways. No one was a stranger to him for very long. He was proud of his family and where he came from and would introduce himself and say, “I am Kenneth McCoy and was born and raised in Bayfield, Colo.”

He was always there to help anyone, many times without ever being asked.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his wife, Joan after 51 years of marriage; his parents, Earl and Peggy; his father-in-law, Leland Turner; sister-in-law, Juanell McCoy; and brothers-in-law, Bobby Jimmerfield and “Toad” Leas.

After having several hospital stays this past winter, his choice was to go home and be with his family. And much to everyone surprise, he got stronger, looked better, felt better and did what he felt like doing for five weeks. During this time, one last bit of orneriness had to be played. He decided that “waking the girls for coffee” was a lot of fun. About 4 a.m., he routinely decided he felt like getting up and having coffee. So his companion, Betsy, would get up, make coffee and get the girls up. Usually two of his girls would stay just to make him feel better, the girls being Sherre, Tammie, Whitney, Tiffany, Sammie or Debra when there. After they’d get up and were sitting there looking at him, he would look over to Betsy and say, “this is fun, isn’t it?” with a big grin on his face.

He was known as “Dad” by his children and in-laws, Grandpa, Grandpa Kenneth, Gramps, Grampie and WK (KW) to the grandchildren, great-grandchildren and even the friends of

the grandchildren. He was even called the “Rock” by Gary, one of his wife’s cousins and that put a grin on his face and he sat a little taller in his chair.

Kenneth is survived by many who loved and cared for him: Deb and her husband, Harold George, their sons, Rio McCoy and wife, Michelle, their children, Darrian and Clay, Sam George and wife, Kate and son, Luke, Ty George and wife, Dawn their daughters, Brook and Riley; Sherre and husband, Leo Pacheco, their son, Travis Pacheco and wife, Christina, and their daughters, Tympe and Carlie, Sherre’s daughters, Tiffany Rector and husband, Mike and children Dylan and Dylanie, and Tarah Pacheco and children Dontae and DoMonique, his son, Todd McCoy and wife, Shelly and their son, Troy McCoy.

The family was blessed to have a wonderful companion for their father, Betsy Fahrion, and her daughters and their families: Tammie Nelson and husband, Jack, their daughter Sammie, sons, Nick and William and Whitney Crawley and companion, Kelly Miller and their daughter, Kelsey, who came into his life and took such good care of him and loved him as much as his children did.

His other survivors include his sister, Earleen and husband, Billie Carroll; a brother, Donnie McCoy and aunt, Lavenia McCoy; mother-in-law, Opel Turner; sister-in-law, Beverly Leas, brother-in-law, Ronald Turner and wife, Charlotte, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Pallbearers were Todd McCoy, Troy McCoy, Harold George, Rio McCoy, Leo Pacheco, Travis Pacheco, Mike Rector and Derek McCoy.

Honorary pallbearers were all his family and friends.

A viewing was held Tuesday, Feb. 22, at Hood Mortuary, Durango, Colo. 81302.

Services were held Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Church of Christ in Bayfield.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations sent to the Lavenia McCoy Library, 395 Center Drive, Bayfield, CO 81122.

Legislative News

An exciting week in Topeka

I woke up this past Sunday morning to find my photo on the cover of the *Topeka Capital Journal*. The story indicated that I came to Topeka to fight for Northwest Kansas. When I showed up in my office Monday morning I found over 50 copies of the paper on my desk - compliments of my legislative friends. I was told, in days gone by, when there was a cover photo of a legislator, in the *Capital Journal*, they were required to bring 125 apples to the next session. Fortunately, that is no longer required

Monday, I had the privilege of meeting two Medal of Honor recipients – Colonel Don Ballard and Colonel Roger Donlon. They were given a standing ovation in the Kansas House, after their stories were told. The message of being proud of true “American Heroes” and fighting to keep America strong was heard loud and clear and was very inspirational.

Tuesday, I went to the “well” for the first time to present two bills, both of which passed to final vote. They both passed final action on Wednesday. One bill dealt with the accounting firm partnership problems and the other was in criminal justice dealing with taking illegal videos and placing them on the internet.

I then started a bill that will allow school systems a way to work with fire marshal penalties. I also made an amendment to the out of state student bill that will make the new law fair to landowners paying property tax in Kansas.

Wednesday, we passed out of committee two Pro Life Bills, HB 2035 and HB 2218. I campaigned for Pro Life and after listening to passionate debates on the issue voted for the bills.

I have been asked by many constituents to clarify the Workmen’s Compensation Bill. HB 2134 reinstates the \$75,000 functional impairment cap and raises the permanent partial and total caps by \$30,000 while increasing death benefits

from \$250,000 to \$300,000. The measure clarifies that employers are only responsible for injuries experienced while at work and protects them from civil litigation. Previous law put employers on the hook for injuries experienced outside of the workplace.

The workers compensation provisions are necessary for both controlling costs for employers and also in securing an increase in the fund so that it will be able to pay benefits for injured workers.

Overall, this bill has been touted as a strong step for economic development in the state.

Another bill I have been asked about is House Bill 2013 regarding Interstate Commerce, Long Gun Firearms sale. Current law allows Kansans to only buy and sell long gun firearms from states contiguous to Kansas as originally required by 1934 Federal law. In 1984, federal law was amended to remove restrictions on interstate activity and HB 2013 would update Kansas law with existing federal law. I believe very strongly in the 2nd Amendment and will always vote to protect those rights.

There is still a wide range of disparity between the House and the Senate. The major difference is the \$25 million added by the Senate for special education to meet the still unknown amount of federally-required maintenance of effort. Maintenance of effort is the amount of money the state has to put into special education to receive federal money for that fund. School districts did not plan for the \$25 million, when drafting their 2011 budgets, so not appropriating the funds will not affect current budgets. In the Education Budget Committee I helped draft a proposal to meet the maintenance of effort question that is being considered by appropriations.

A constant question I receive deals with the status of the Kansas Arts Commission. I am on the budget committee

that had to make a recommendation to appropriations about their budget. As you know, the governor has recommended that the Arts be moved under the jurisdiction of the Historical Society. My concern was we meet the guidelines, set by the federal government, which would give the Arts the support needed. There was no assurance of the federal funds in committee. Therefore, we passed out a recommendation to keep the Arts, as is, until we knew for sure what is going to happen. The next day appropriations did not take our recommendation and put the Arts into the Historical Society. What happens next is still uncertain.

This coming Saturday I will be traveling Northwest Kansas with Senator Ostmeyer and Senator Schmidt (Phillipsburg only) for coffee shop meetings. The exact time and location, in each community, will be in your local paper. I would like to get the e-mail addresses of everyone who attends. If you can’t be at the coffees simply e-mail me at ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov.

I will have a website up in the coming weeks that will have a questionnaire pertaining to current issues in the Kansas House. It will give all interested persons a chance to weigh in. If you do not have internet service the Northwest Kansas libraries will be willing to assist you in completing the survey on their computers.

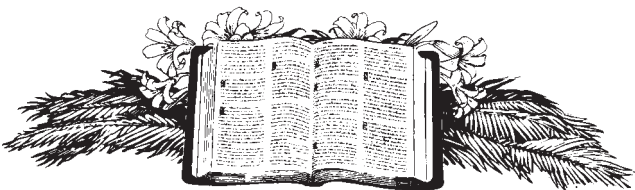
A great quote I heard this week – “God grant me patience, and let me have it right now.”

Best news of the week – Boeing got the new aircraft tanker contract from the federal government. This will mean more jobs and millions of dollars for the Kansas economy.

By
Ward
Cassidy



120th District Representative



Reminder



Time to renew
your recreational
vehicle license.

St. Francis
Police department

Instructor-Medical Assistant Program

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Recap Of Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2011

Steers:
300-400# — \$159.00 - \$162.50
400-500# — \$141.00 - \$151.00
600-700# — \$130.00 - \$137.50
797# — \$125.25
Baby Calf (hfr.) \$300.00/hd
Weigh Cows: High yielding: \$69.00 - \$76.25
Lower yielding: \$59.75 - \$66.00
Heiferettes: \$82.00 - \$103.00
Bulls: \$65.00 - \$72.00
Short Term Cows: Short Bred \$685.00 - \$705.00/hd
Tuesday, March 8: Regular Sale, selling all classes of cattle.
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300-400# — \$148.00 - \$153.00
400-500# — \$135.50 - \$147.00
500-600# — \$126.50 - \$132.50
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