



Walter Schloer Jr.

June 22, 1939 - June 19, 2024

Walter “Walt” Schloer, Jr. passed away at St. Charles Medical Center on June 19, 2024, at the age of 84.

The oldest of three brothers, Walt was born in Red Wing, Minnesota on June 22, 1939, and spent much of his youth in Minneapolis. He attended the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor’s degree in Forestry in 1961. After college, Walt began a US Forest Service career that included assignments on the Inyo, Angeles, Sequoia, San Bernardino, Los Padres, and Deschutes National Forests. He also served in Vietnam as an Army cryptographer, for a total of 44 years in federal service.

Walt married Harriett Louise Hansen in 1969 after her mother, also a USFS employee, introduced them at an office gathering; son Karl and daughter Kelly would arrive in the next few years. In 1980, Walt accepted an assignment as the Bend District Ranger, a position he held until the merger of the Bend and Fort Rock Districts in 1995. Walt continued as the Bend-Fort Rock District Ranger until he retired in 2005 and remained active in the Bend community the rest of his life.

Many Central Oregonians knew Walt based on his job, but he touched many more worldwide as a strong supporter of Rotary International, serving as District Governor and chairman of the District 5110 World Community Service Committee. He was also a lifelong supporter of the Boy Scouts and, later in life, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and multiple veterans’ organizations. His recreational activities matched his professional and charitable choices,

with hiking, fishing, hunting and boating as his preferred leisure pursuits. Walt was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Gladys Schloer. His survivors include his brothers Kenneth and Ronald and their families; wife Harriett; son Karl and his wife Trina; daughter Kelly and her husband Josh Beaudry; and grandchildren William, Matthew, and Anna Beaudry.

A formal remembrance will take place at VFW Post 1643 in Bend on Saturday, August 3, 2024, at 10:30 AM. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, friends make donations in Walt's memory to the Rotary Foundation, Boy Scouts, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, or VFW. The family also encourages those with memories of Walt to leave their thoughts in the electronic memory book at www.niswonger-reynolds.com.

Previous Events

Remembrance

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (PT)

VFW Post 1643

1503 NE 4th

Bend

Bend, OR 97701

Tribute Wall

CB

“ *Crater Lake Council BSA purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Walter Schloer Jr..*



Crater Lake Council BSA - August 02, 2024 at 02:24 PM

GC

“ I was blessed with the opportunity to have had Walt as my supervisor on the Bend-Ft.Rock RD for many years.

Walt always took the time to listen to your questions, concerns or suggestions. He wouldn't give you an outright answer but would challenge you with questions until you figured out the answer on your own.

Most people didn't realize due to his quiet demeanor, he had a wonderful dry sense of humor which I truly appreciated.

I have to tell one story about Walt that anyone who worked with him can attest to. He was a saver of paper and hated to throw anything away as he may need it. At the start of each year in Jan 1st his office would be immaculate. As the year progressed the piles of paper would start to grow and grow and eventually cover every spare inch of space. You would think "how can he find anything" but he could pull out exactly what he needed at anytime. Then in Dec 31 the banana boxes would appear and the piles loaded up and moved to the back of his truck and eventually to his barn. I inky how Harriett that he didn't leave those piles for you 📝

Walt was a dedicated Forest Service ranger that had the best interest of the land at his core and strived daily to protect and preserve the land for future generations.

Walt was a wonderful man, husband, father and friend and will be greatly missed by all

Geri Chilen - July 24, 2024 at 04:31 PM

“ It was a real shock to learn of Walt’s death. He and I had known each other for a long time, starting when we were studying to be foresters at the University of Minnesota. Walt was a year older than I and graduated a year earlier. We both got jobs in the west, Walt in California and me in Oregon. We both became district rangers in the same year and in Jan. 1980 we both reported to the Deschutes National Forest, on the same day, for new jobs, Walt as the Bend District Ranger and me as the Recreation Staff Officer. Over the next 17 years we worked closely together often talking nearly every day.

The most significant thing I can say about Walt is that he was the best district ranger I ever met. He ran one of the largest, most complex ranger districts in the entire Forest Service and he knew his district exceptionally well. He spent so much time in the field that he often worked late in the evenings to catch up on paper work. I often saw the lights on in his office, at 8 or 9 PM, when I drove by Red Oak Square.

Walt was also a very valuable member of the forest’s leadership team. He was a quiet person, but when he had something to say everyone listened. He also had a reputation of being able to say no better than anyone I ever knew. District rangers get numerous requests for special use permits that are often just opportunities for someone to make money but don’t provide any real public benefits. Walt would simply say no and that was the end of it. If the applicant threatened to appeal his decision or take us to court, Walt never wavered and I think it had something to do with his German heritage.

Some of his biggest decisions involved Mt. Bachelor and relationships between ski area managers and the Forest Service are often very contentious. Walt, however, developed such a good working relationship with the Mt. Bachelor people that the national organization of ski area managers gave Walt and Mt. Bachelor’s general manager an award for the best working relationship of any

ski area in the country. When the forest decided that a road to the top of the proposed NW express lift would be too controversial, Walt delivered the message to Mt. Batchelor and they accepted his judgement saying they would find a way to build the lift without a road.

Walt was also very involved in many volunteer organizations. One time, he asked me about working with the Boy Scouts, because he knew I was on the council board of directors. We worked together on the board for many years, often driving to Central Point for an evening meeting and returning late at night. To my knowledge, his kids were never involved in scouting, but it was something he wanted to do.

If there is a record for the longest serving district ranger it would probably go to Walt, at least for the modern era. He was highly respected by those who worked for him, those who worked with him, those he worked for, and members of the public that he came in contact with. Walt was one of a kind and he will be missed by many.

On Aug 3rd we will be out of town and I'm disappointed that we will miss the Open House/BBQ.

Don Pederson

Don Pederson - July 24, 2024 at 02:38 PM

RS

“ I have always admired my brother, Walt, and his many talents and abilities. He set the bar high for me to follow his example. Although we lived miles apart during our adult lives, I so enjoyed sharing time and experiences with him. I will truly miss him and our conversations.

Ron Schloer

Ron Schloer - July 18, 2024 at 06:41 PM

SW

“ I met Walt 20 years ago on our first fly-in fishing trip together to Lake Kagianagami (Kag) in Ontario, Canada. Walt was related to my neighbor and had been going on this trip each year with his brother Ken and my neighbor for quite some time. Following attrition of some of the oldest members of the fishing party, I was invited to join and Walt's and my friendship began. For one week each year, I was treated to seven days of fishing with one of the most humble and kind people I've ever met. Walt was simply a joy to be with. It didn't matter where we fishing on Kag or how many fish we were catching, Walt always had a smile on his face. We had a great number of similar interests so conversation in the boat was always spirited and for me, often educational. Walt LOVED shore lunch and man could he put away some walleye in one meal. The last two years of Kag fishing trips have been bittersweet for me as I always looked forward to a rewarding week sharing a boat with my fishing buddy Walt. There is a shoreline on Kag that often produces lots of walleyes and Walt and Ken always headed there first. We aptly named it Schloer's Shores and I will fish it every year while thinking of Walt.

Steve Wabrowetz - July 14, 2024 at 04:15 PM