



Charles A. “Chuck” Thornton

July 3, 1928 - June 14, 2011

Charles Adam “Chuck” Thornton, 82, died June 14, 2011, at Wyoming Medical Center in Casper.

He was born July 3, 1928, in Asheville, N.C., to Charles and Clara (Pettingell) Thornton, and was raised in Lexington, Ky.

Chuck married his soul mate, Mary Lou Drinkwalter, on Jan. 12, 1957, in Casper. Together they raised five children.

Chuck graduated from the University of Kentucky with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology. As a draftee in the U.S. Army, he served during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953 as a cartographer in San Francisco, Calif. His career as a geologist took him around the country before landing in Casper around 1955. In 1966, he began a new career as a high school math and geology teacher at Kelly Walsh High School. In 1980 he returned to geology as a consultant and retired in 1992. He and his wife moved to Thermopolis in 1998, wintering in Rockport, Texas, until 2009.

He was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and the Elks Club. He enjoyed fishing, playing volleyball, handball and racquetball, swimming, reading, crossword puzzles and watching Jeopardy. He was a great storyteller and never forgot a joke.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Tony (Annette) Thornton of Riverton and Mike (Vicki) Thornton of Dillon, Mont.; three daughters, Stephanie (Darrin) Metcalfe of Missoula, Mont., Laura (Gerald) Allan of Aurora, Colo. and Anne (Blane) Gilliland of Riverton; 19 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Patricia.

Cremation has taken place. A Parish Vigil was held at St. Francis Church on Wednesday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Thursday (today) at 10 a.m. at the church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Francis Building Fund, P.O. Box 272, Thermopolis, WY 82443; the American Cancer Society; or a charity of donor's choice.