



John Penfield

September 12, 1933 - January 26, 2008

TORRINGTON, WY..... Memorial services for JOHN R. PENFIELD, 74, will be held at 10:00am on Monday, February 18, 2008 at the Colyer Funeral Home Chapel. A reception will be held at Bell Park Tower Community Room immediately following the services. John died on January 26, 2008 at the Regional West Medical Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Cremation has taken place and John's ashes will be scattered at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions would be appreciated to the donor's choice of either, the 'John R. Penfield Memorial' c/o Pinnacle Bank at 2000 Main St., Torrington, WY 82240 for establishing matching funds for the placement of sculpture on Torrington's Main Street; or to the 'John R. Penfield Cancer Survivors Fund' c/o Carrol Diffendaffer, Cancer Treatment Center, 3911 Avenue B, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends are invited to send condolences to www.colyerfuneralhome.com John was born on September 12, 1933 in Broadwater, Nebraska the son of Luther A. and Reba (Sparks) Penfield. As a young child, John traveled with his parents to Niobrara County, Wyoming where his family homesteaded north of Lance Creek. He attended elementary schools in the Lance Creek area and finished his high school education in Lusk, Wyoming; graduating in the Spring of 1951. John then joined the United States Marine Corps and served his country for four years in California and Hawaii. Following his military discharge, John returned to the Rocky Mountains and attended a Business College in Billings, Montana;

quickly landing a job in the accounting office of Ohio Oil Company in Casper, Wyoming. In 1960, John started work at the Elsinor Navel and Military Academy in Lake Elsinor, California. He inspired his young recruits to be model citizens and instilled in them dignity and loyalty; which has remained with them even to this day. Each week, John would receive phone calls from the many former recruits and staff members who he served with; recalling the memories and challenges they faced. Following a change in ownership at the academy, John left California and returned to Wyoming; finding a management position at Crazy Charlie's Truck Stop in Lusk where he stayed until 1993. He then became the store manager at 'Mel's Country Card & Party' in Torrington and remained in that position until his untimely death from pancreatic cancer. John was diagnosed with cancer in 1990 and working with Carol Diffendaffer, he was a founding member of the 'Prostate Cancer Support Group' in Scottsbluff; soon becoming a 'Man to Man' Volunteer; helping others to face their cancer conflicts. Strength and courage was John - right to the end. John was a member of the Goshen County Master Gardners Club in Torrington. He also became involved with the Volunteers of America when his mother moved into Bell Park Tower in Torrington, and was soon asked to be a board member of Bell Park Tower; a position he accepted and held for the past several years. John is survived by his life partner of 30 years, Mel Kjormoe of Torrington, Wyoming; his mother Reba Penfield of Torrington; one brother, Luther Penfield and his wife Joella of Lusk, Wyoming; two sisters, Geneva Burke of Lusk, and Twila Berry of Las Vegas, Nevada; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father; two brothers, Norman Penfield and Orval Penfield; and one sister, Burnice Bolinger.

Tribute Wall

DG

“ We wish to express our deepest sympathy in the event of John's death, to his family and to let you know our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Dale and Donna

Dale and Donna Gunn - January 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ John was always upbeat and a joy to all of us. Fondly Beverly

Beverly Foy DeLano - January 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Mel--I am so very sorry about John. I just found out today - Valentine's Day. I did so much enjoy sharing smiles and conversation with both of you whenever I came into the store. I got to give John a big hug right after New Year's. He was walking down the street on a very cold day when we met and chatted. That will always be one of the special memories of him. Of course, both of you coming to the wedding reception at our house was so wonderful. Couldn't have done those weddings and the 50th anniversary without you both, you know. You are in my thoughts and prayers, Mel.

Donna and Bill Duncan - January 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

PP

“ *Mel, I am so sorry to read of the lose of John. I so enjoyed coming to your store and visiting with him. He was so knowledgable of gardening. I remember taking my peonies down and he came outside and told me how to plant them. I will truly miss him also. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely,
Pat Pickerel*

Pat Pickerel - January 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Mel,
We were so sad to hear about John. You both were such great neighbors. Even after our home became a rental, John still kept his "neighborhood watch". He was a very caring, thoughtfull person. I still remember him calling to say the former tenant left the window open, and he was concerned we may have damage if it rained. He always had time to talk. I enjoyed the "tours of your yard" to see what had been done to improve it. Though I was always sure when I left it couldn't possibly get better, the next time I'd see it John had done a little more "tweeking".*

He'll be greatly missed. You and he will always remain one of our fondest memories of Torrington. Neighbors like you are what give Torrington such a feeling of home to newcomers.

Jerry and Janet

Janet and Jerry Hinkley - January 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM