

# FWS Retirees Association

## NEWSLETTER



February 2016

### 2016 Board of Directors

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Our venue will be the Crowne Plaza Memphis with first class accommodations and a very reasonable \$99 lodging rate that includes a



cooked breakfast. The hotel has a wide variety of amenities to appeal to most guests. These include a full sized outdoor pool, a well-equipped fitness room, free wi-fi and free local shuttle.

We'll keep you posted as things develop. In the meanwhile, get with your former colleagues, plan to join us there and let us know what sorts of activities will be of greatest interest to you and your fellow retirees next fall. Suggestion thus far include:

- Visit the Memphis Zoo - <http://www.memphiszoo.org/>
- Musical tours, such as the Memphis Mojo Music Bus Tour or the Memphis Coach Tour that includes the Rock & Roll Museum.
- A visit to Graceland (anyone remember Elvis?)
- Opportunities for birding.

## Passing of Denny Holland

We are very sad to report that Denny Holland passed away at his home in Eufaula, Alabama on Friday morning November 20th after a long, valiant struggle with cancer. He was 81. Denny was one of the founders of the FWS Retirees Association and a long-time member of our Board of Directors. He was most recently awarded the title of Board Member Emeritus, our first and only such position.

Denny was also deeply involved in the Heritage Committee and in gathering the oral histories of dozens of retired Service members. He, along with his wife Kathy, were instrumental in making arrangements for Retiree reunions and especially for the reunion we held in Charleston, South Carolina. And of course, his gift of gab will never be forgotten by those privileged to know him.

We and the entire Association will miss him greatly. We are exploring the possibility of establishing a permanent memorial in his honor, perhaps at NCTC. We hope to announce just what form of memorial in the very near future.

His obituary can be found under "Passing of Colleagues" in this newsletter.

## Reunion 2016 – Memphis on the Big Muddy

Not too early to start planning. Our next big reunion will be in Memphis, Tennessee, on the mighty Mississippi and home of Graceland and Beale Street. The dates of the reunion are Sunday October 2, 2016 through Thursday, October 6. A draft agenda is being developed with a focus on migratory birds and big river fishes. We are working on several tours that we believe will be of interest to all and contacting some very knowledgeable and entertaining speakers. We will visit Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge and *Ducks Unlimited* will host an evening reception at its headquarters campus. *Ducks Unlimited* and Bass Pro Shops, both headquartered in Memphis, are sure to figure prominently in our planning and logistics.

## The Occupation of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

On January 26, the FBI and other law enforcement officials finally took action designed to end the three week long illegal occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Oregon by armed militants. Aamon Bundy, leader of the militants, and five other anti-government militants were apprehended on a remote road as they traveled to a meeting with other ranchers to explain their demands. One of those traveling with Bundy, Robert Finicum, exited his vehicle and reached in his pocket for his weapon and was killed in a brief shoot-out that followed the traffic stop. Previously, Finicum had indicated that he would die before allowing himself to be arrested and jailed. Three other militants were arrested in separate apprehensions. Reportedly, there are six militants still at the refuge which has now been blockaded by law enforcement officials and they have been told that they can leave peacefully if they choose.

Prior to this action, law enforcement (FBI and others) were present in the area but did not blockade the refuge, instead

permitting free ingress and egress of militants and supplies. Their apparent strategy was to avoid a confrontation with the militants, assuming that if they can't get the stand-off they want, they will soon get tired of just standing around. Only one arrest had been made, that of an individual who was apprehended driving a government vehicle off the refuge. However, after more than three weeks, there was increased pressure to end the occupation and remove and arrest the militants. Officials apparently felt the opportunity to take down the leadership of the group off the refuge and in an area with little chance of jeopardizing others, was the right course of action.

Aamon Bundy is the son of the sagebrush rebellion activist, Cliven Bundy, who himself led a notorious armed stand-off with federal authorities over his failure to pay grazing fees (which he still owes and refuses to pay).

Ostensibly protesting the jailing of two arsonists in Nevada and the management of vast tracts of land in the west by the federal government, the militants at Malheur have threatened to shoot if there is any attempt to dislodge them and have vowed to stay until the refuge is turned over to local control. However, the local citizens and local governments have denounced the occupation and lauded FWS staff for working collaboratively with them in development of a multi-purpose management plan that benefits all users of the 188,000 acre refuge. The locals want the militants gone.

Since their occupation on January 2nd, the militants have illegally removed fencing from around portions of the refuge, harassed refuge employees in town and followed them to their homes. There are also reports of bomb and kidnapping threats against federal employees in the area. The militants have purportedly accessed personal telephone and credit card information from refuge files and computers.

The Association had written a letter to FWS Director Dan Ashe with our support for the Service and the continued management of these lands as intended by Congress and expressing our grave concern over the occupation and the flouting of federal authority and law. A copy of the Association's letter is posted on our website. A copy was also forwarded to Region One Director Robyn Thorson which elicited a response from R-1 Refuge Chief Kevin Foerster, echoing our sentiments and asking for patience as a peaceful end to the occupation was sought. While we recognized that the Service had little control over the situation, we felt the need to clearly express our feelings. We viewed the actions of the militants as nothing short of sedition and felt that the violators should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Not to do so, would only encourage additional such behavior in the future to the detriment of our stewardship of the land and its wildlife resources.

## Changes on the Board of Directors

Each year, the terms of three members of the Association's Board of Directors expire. And this year in addition to those three, another opening for a seat on the Board occurred when Board member Robin Fields resigned. However, even after making several appeals for additional candidates, only four Association members stepped up. Consequently, the Board decided to forgo an election and at our January conference call, certified those four. The Board members we certified were Gail Carmody, Jerry Grover, and Larry Shanks, all incumbents who were seated for additional full three year terms, and John

Cornely, new to the Board, who will fill out the remaining two years of Robin Fields' term.

John grew up on the prairies of South Dakota and Kansas. And



graduated from high school in Osborne, Kansas in 1964. After earning a B.A. degree in Biology at Hastings College in Nebraska, he enlisted in the U. S. Air Force, graduated from Officer's Training School and Radar Officer's School and left active duty in 1973 with the rank of Captain. John then completed a M.S. at Texas Tech in 1975 and a Ph.D. from

Northern Arizona University in 1980. He was the refuge biologist at Malheur NWR from 1978 to 1981 and the biologist for Western Oregon Refuges from 1981 to 1988. John was the Migratory Bird Program Chief in Region 6 from 1988 to 2007. Immediately after retiring he was named the Executive Director of The Trumpeter Swan Society and appointed to the Board of Directors of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. He is a member of the FWS Heritage Committee and is actively involved in oral history interviews. John has completed wildlife consulting assignments in China, Russia and Israel. He likes to fish, hunt, travel, watch baseball and hockey, and sample a diversity of beers. John and his wife, Bea, have two grown children and two granddaughters.

Also during the January conference call, the Board elected officers for the 2016 calendar year. Bob Streeter was selected as Chairman, Nell Baldacchino as Vice-chair, Gail Carmody as Treasurer, and Jim McKevitt as Secretary/Scribe.

## Amendments to our By-Laws

The Board determined that our current by-laws, last amended in 2012, should be modified to more accurately reflect our existing procedures and areas of emphasis. The Board has proposed amendments, and consistent with the current by-laws, hereby notifies our members of those proposed changes.

The amendments proposed are as follows:

1. We propose to alter the order in which the "Purposes of the Association" are displayed to reflect greater emphasis on the social and fraternal function of the Association. That purpose, which had been listed last, will be moved to the forefront.
2. Under "Elections," we have added a clause to cover the situation encountered in the past two years when there were not enough candidates for seats on the Board to warrant an election. The clause provides that we first advise our electorate of our intention to forego the election unless additional candidates are identified.
3. A clause is proposed in the section describing the duties of the officers of the Board (Section 4 (c) (3)) that defines the duty of the Secretary to provide ballots and supporting information to our electorate at least 30 days in advance of the deadline for receiving ballot returns for any matter that requires a vote of eligible members and a duty to tally those votes.
4. Under "Management", the clause dealing with the authority of the Board to contract with individuals and accept qualified volunteers to serve on committees and act as chairpersons of committees will be amended to clarify that such contractors and volunteers do not gain the right

to vote on Board or Association matters (unless they are otherwise eligible to do so).

5. We propose to add a requirement in the “General Provisions” section under “amendments” that the Board give 30-days notice of any proposal to amend the bylaws. Previously, there was no time frame specified

Consistent with this last proposed amendment to our by-laws, this notice is provided that, absent any significant objections, the Board intends to adopt each of these proposed amendments 30 days hence. Any comments should be directed to Jim McKevitt at (phone) 530-878-7883 or (e-mail) jimmymac@usamedia.tv.

## Resource Issues

**Gray Wolf.** The state of Oregon has removed the gray wolf from the state list of threatened and endangered species; however, the species remains protected under the federal statute.

**Red Wolf.** After announcing that no more captive-bred red wolves would be released into the wild while it studies the feasibility of continuing the 30-year old program (see our October 2015 newsletter), the Fish and Wildlife Service has been sued by three conservation groups. Contending that the Service has failed to fulfill its Endangered Species Act requirement to protect the species, the groups filed suit in the U.S. Eastern District Court in Raleigh, North Carolina. They cite decisions by FWS officials that allowed the killing of red wolves by local landowners and the possibility that the Service will halt, temporarily at least, the release of captive-bred wolf pups into the wild to make up for mortalities. The lawsuit also faults the Service for discontinuing the sterilization of coyotes that interbreed with red wolves.

The lawsuit was filed by the Red Wolf Coalition, Defenders of Wildlife and the Animal Welfare Institute. Said an attorney for the groups “The wild survival of America’s rarest wolf depends on whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acts responsibly and fulfills its legal duty”. Wild red wolf numbers have declined from a peak of around 130 in 2006 to an estimated 50 to 75 animals this past year.

Fish and Wildlife is considering whether to improve or abandon the red wolf recovery program in the counties centered around wildlife refuge lands on the Albemarle Peninsula. “We are currently reviewing the entire red wolf program to get the science right and work towards recovery with our partners,” Leo Miranda, an assistant regional director in the Fish and Wildlife Southeast Regional Office, said in an email. “A newly established recovery team is working to address the conservation of this species on the landscape.”

**Mexican Wolf.** Damned if you do and damned if you don’t! Contrary to what is happening in North Carolina, the Fish and Wildlife Service in the southwestern U.S. is being criticized for proposing to release wolves into the wild. The Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), a distinct sub-species of the gray wolf and once considered functionally extinct in the United States and Mexico, has been listed as an endangered species ever since 1976. To preserve the species and prevent its total extirpation, Mexico and the United States established a bi-national captive breeding program initiated with five wolves captured in Mexico. Since that time there have been several initial releases and subsequent translocations of captive-reared Mexican wolves into the wild in both Mexico and the U.S. (Arizona and New

Mexico). The initial objective was simply to ensure the survival of the species in the wild with a U.S. population target of 100 wolves.

In recent years, that objective has broadened to recovery of the species and a wild population of 300 – 325 wild wolves in distinct populations in both states with effective migrants in each population. Per ESA and NEPA requirements, draft rules to list the Mexican wolf as an endangered sub-species, separate and apart from the listing of the endangered gray wolf, were promulgated in 2014 and finalized in 2015. These documents describe a phased 12-year program for continued releases of wolves and a modest expansion of the current population area. A formal, more comprehensive recovery plan for the Mexican wolf is expected in 2017.

Consistent with long-standing policy, the Service has approached the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for a state permit to make the additional releases. The Department refused to issue a permit and, on appeal, that refusal was supported by the Game and Fish Commission. The State of Arizona, as well as adjacent states of Utah and Colorado have also objected to the intentional reintroduction of additional wolves in the central Arizona – New Mexico population area.

While state cooperation is certainly desirable, the Department of Interior has exempted the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program from its policy of complying with state permits and goes on to say “It is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s obligation under the law to recover the species, and reintroductions into the wild from the more genetically diverse captive population are an essential part of that recovery process.” Documents obtained in October 2015 indicate that FWS plans to go forward with the release of up to 10 Mexican wolf pups and a mating pair of adult Mexican wolves into New Mexico, without the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish’s permits for the releases.

**Whooping Cranes.** Those who attended our last reunion in Corpus Christi will remember the discussions about the small population of whoppers reared in Wisconsin and then guided via an ultra-light aircraft to wintering sites in Florida. This effort was also the subject of a television documentary. The program has been ongoing for some 15 years but the Service now proposes to discontinue it. The goal of the program was to establish a population of cranes distinct from those wild birds that rear near Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada and migrate to the Texas gulf coast to winter. Apparently, the use of aircraft and other human interactions have negatively affected the birds parenting skills to the extent that very few chicks produced in the wild in Wisconsin are surviving to fledge. Of the nearly 250 cranes released in Wisconsin in the past 15 years, only 10 chicks have survived to fledge.

**Bison.** One of my favorite scenes in the movie “Dances with Wolves” is the buffalo hunt scene. Recently, the state of Montana approved a plan to allow the presence of bison year-round on several hundred thousand acres of public and private lands, primarily north and west of Yellowstone National Park. While this decision will not bring back the herds to their past magnificence, it is a big step in the right direction. Plans approved in November call for 2,500 – 4,500 free-ranging bison to occupy those lands on a year-round basis with management to include sport hunting to maintain those levels.

**Delmarva Fox Squirrel.** This king-sized squirrel, one of the first species afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act has been delisted. Native to the Delmarva

peninsula of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, it was once nearly extinct but has staged a remarkable comeback over the past 50 years due primarily to efforts by the Service, the three states and the cooperation of local landowners

## Miscellaneous

**LE Reunion at Grants Pass Oregon.** Retired Law Enforcement folks are planning for their next get-together at Grants Pass in Oregon from May 10 through May 12 of this year. They will gather at the Riverside Inn on the banks of the Rogue River and have several events planned, including a riverboat trip through Hellgate Canyon and a tour of the FWS Forensic Laboratory in Ashland.



Any retired LE folks who care to join their group should contact **Jerry Smith**, 5900 Raleigh Drive, Tyler, Texas, 75703 or e-mail: [Retiredjer@aol.com](mailto:Retiredjer@aol.com)

**Life Members.** Lifetime members of the Fish and Wildlife Retirees Association are a distinct group who support the Association at the highest level. We are grateful for their support and involvement with the Association. They come from a variety of careers and backgrounds, representing a cross section of the Fish and Wildlife Service. We are happy to recognize them and their accomplishments and invite others to join their ranks.

Denny Holland was our first lifetime member.

- Dr. Gail S. Baker - Lifetime Member #18
- Jay Banta - Lifetime Member #7
- Bruce Blanchard
- Hannibal Bolton - Lifetime Member #21
- Ray D. Brunson - Lifetime Member #19
- Frank Cockrell - Lifetime Member #9
- Debra Corbett - Lifetime Member #23
- Robin Fields - Lifetime Member #20
- Jerry French - Lifetime Member #2
- Dick Gritman
- Dale Hall - Lifetime Member #10
- Jim King - Lifetime Member #4
- June McIlwain - Lifetime Member #5
- Mike McMinn - Lifetime Member #17
- Marvin Moriarty - Lifetime Member #12
- Stephen Parry - Lifetime Member #22
- Jim Pulliam - Lifetime Member #14
- Judy Pulliam - Lifetime Member #15
- Barbara Ritter - Lifetime Member #8
- Tom Smith - Lifetime Member #3
- Donna Stanek - Lifetime Member #16
- Tom Taylor - Lifetime Member #13
- Robyn Thorson - Lifetime Member #11
- John Weisser - Lifetime Member #6

**Help Wanted.** We are still looking for a motivated member to *assist* the Association Treasurer who maintains our financial records and accounts. The Treasurers duties involve maintaining our bank accounts; preparing annual and reunion budgets; accepting funds on behalf of the Association; tracking and making payments for any bills or reimbursements related to the organization; and completing monthly and annual reports in

QuickBooks. The current Treasurer also tracks grant funds we receive and disburse. Time investment is about 5 hours per month with some extra time required in the months before and after our Association reunions held about every 18 months.

We are willing to provide economic incentives to the qualified individual who applies and is accepted. The amount and nature of the incentive will be based on the duties that the individual takes on. That will be negotiated between the applicant and our current Treasurer, Gail Carmody. Call Gail (850-867-9012) if you are interested. ☺

## **FWS Suspends the Printing of Periodic Publications.**

The Fish and Wildlife Service, in a January 6, 2016 memorandum to the Service Directorate from Deputy Director Steve Guertin, has suspended the printing of newsletters, updates and other periodicals throughout the Service. The order also prohibits contracting for such printing services. The memorandum cites the increased availability and speed of digital electronic information and the ability of a broad section of the population to access digital information and the benefits of reduced use of paper, as reasons for the curtailment.

The memorandum did not indicate what print matter might be exempted from the policy but it appears that the Fish and Wildlife Service News and the Refuge update would no longer be available in print. Since many of our members do not have or use electronic media, this would certainly be a problem and leave them without access to those wonderful publications. The Retirees Association will explore this issue further.

**New Book by FWS Retiree.** In a book entitled ONE CHOSEN, available at Amazon.com., retired FWS biologist and Association member Dr. James Lewis tells the story of a real-life adventure. Jim and biologist Kent Clegg carried out the historical first project to teach pen-reared juvenile sandhill cranes (1995 and 1996) and whooping cranes (1997) to follow an ultralight aircraft in migration. The research tested a technique to start a new migratory population of the endangered whooping crane. The birds were led in October, from Idaho to New Mexico, 700 miles across the Rockies while experiencing attacks by golden eagles, crushing downslope winds, winter blizzards, and aircraft problems. After release in the wild at Bosque del Apache NWR, the birds had to adapt to the wild, learn what to eat, and avoid coyotes, bobcats, and hunters. In spring, the survivors migrated back north without the assistance of man. Jim combines the associated adventures into one year as seen through the eyes of the cranes. The story is presented in a manner appealing to readers while simultaneously educating them about aspects of conservation, the biology of cranes, and challenges faced by resource managers.

For those who don't know Jim, his career included stints as Leader of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Units at Oklahoma State University and the University of Georgia, as Technical Editor for the Service Editorial Office, and 14 years with Ecological Services at the Albuquerque Regional Office. He retired from the Service in 1997.

## Passing of Colleagues

*If you are aware of the passing of any retired FWS employee, including those who left the Service because of organizational or late career changes, please let us know so that we can pass that information on to our readers.*

**Wayne Adams (1925 – 2015).** Wayne D. Adams passed away November 27, 2015, at his residence in Farmington, Missouri at the age of 90. Wayne was born July 4, 1925, in Leasburg, Missouri, the son of Albert and Ethel Adams.

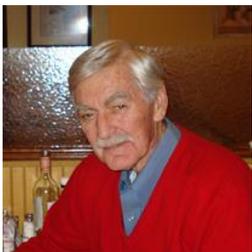
Wayne was a retired US Fish & Wildlife Project Manager of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in Southern Illinois. He was a former Missouri Conservation Agent; former Director of Job Corps in Puxico, Missouri, and former Principal in the Jackson Public School System. He was a US Air Force Veteran of World War II and a member of Farmington First Baptist Church.



Survivors include: his wife, Joyce of Farmington, daughters, Marilyn Joyce (Christopher) Nowicki, of Farmington, and Jeanette Marie Kell, of St. Peters, Missouri, and a son, Stanley W. (and Ramona) Adams, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Wayne also leaves behind eight grandchildren: Stefanie (Jason) Streger; Anna (Jonah) Levia; Amanda Adams; Carrie Beth Adams; Jocelyn Nelson; Nicholas (Maria) Nowicki; Adam (Kylie) Kell and Rebekah Kell, and three great-grandchildren: Hannah, Olivia and Wyatt, and a baby boy Kell, due in January 2016. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Ruth Adams, of Farmington.

Wayne was buried with full military honors at Hillview Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Farmington following a funeral procession led by the Lead Belt Patriot Guard Riders. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, Brain Research and/or Farmington First Baptist Church

**Bernard L. Berger (1934 – 2016).** Bernie Berger, age 81, of Manassas, Virginia passed away peacefully in his sleep Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the Inova Fairfax Hospital after a long battle with cancer.



Bernie was born on April 1, 1934 in Menomonie, Wisconsin the son of the late Lawrence and Frances (Schumacher) Berger. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1961 after serving in the military as a US Marine. His career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service brought him to Virginia in 1972. He retired

as the Assistant Director of the National Fisheries Research Center in Leetown, West Virginia.

Bernie was active in community service and became a charter member of the Manassas Elks Lodge in 1974. He served on many local and state committees and was elected Exalted Ruler in 1977. His hard work and dedication earned him the Virginia Elk of the Year and Grand Lodge District Deputy in 1990. He was also a member of the All Saints Catholic Church and a Master Gardener with Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Ruth Ann. Berger; three daughters, Teresa A. Borree of Temecula,

California, Karen M. Gregg and husband Anthony of Warrenton, Virginia and Dianne K. Behringer and husband Don of Gainesville, Florida; one son, Kevin L. Berger of Richmond, Virginia; five grandchildren, Danielle Gregg, Olivia Behringer, Braden Berger, Robert Borree and Grant Behringer; sister, Mary J. Brinkman of Elk Mound, Wisconsin.

Bernie's humor, kindness and joyful outlook on life made him a favorite of everyone he met. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, Virginia on January 16, 2016.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Virginia Elks Youth Camp.

**Harry Bishop (1924 - 2015).** Harry Bishop, Sr., 91, passed away on December 25, 2015, at the Horizon Bay Brookdale Senior Living Center in San Marcos, Texas. Harry was born in Denver, Colorado, attended schools in Maryland, Texas and Washington, D.C., and then the Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania. During World War II, Harry served as chief gunner with the U.S. Army, 16<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Division and spent 14 months in the European Theatre of Operations.



After completing his service, he attended Cameron College in Lawton, Oklahoma and The University of Oklahoma in Norman where he graduated with a specialty in Ichthyology. Upon graduation, he worked for the Oklahoma Game and Fish Department in Holdenville and McAlister and then managed the Red River Fisheries near Hugo. Upon joining the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, he was stationed in Leetown, West Virginia; Tishomingo, Oklahoma; and then in San Marcos, Texas as Director of the National Fish Hatchery and Development Center. While in San Marcos, he was instrumental in the ground-breaking transfer of a million largemouth bass to the newly formed Lake Powell in southern Utah. The transfer was made in a World War II DC3 which was specially outfitted with water tanks and oxygenation systems. Most of the techniques that were used in this massive project, which had to be coordinated with agencies in Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Arizona, were improvised as Harry was given only two weeks to figure out the myriad of variables involved. Life magazine covered the 1963 drop in great detail with several photographers and feature writers.

After San Marcos, Harry in Austin then to the Albuquerque, New Mexico office as Federal Administrator for fish hatchery production throughout the region. He then moved to Boston, Massachusetts as the Assistant Regional Director for Fishery Resources. He later transferred back to the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery as manager and retired from the Service in 1985,

He remained active in retirement, earning his real estate license, and working for Century 21 Real Estate and Central Texas Properties. In 1987 he was elected to serve as Hays County Director of the Edwards Underground Water District.

Harry had a great passion for the outdoors and loved camping, hunting and fishing. The family enjoyed frequent summer camping trips deep into the wilds of national parks and forests in the western and northern states. Harry was never so happy as when he was in an isolated, primitive shelter in Alaska fishing

for salmon or being bounced around in (or out of) a fishing boat on the Texas coast.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Mary Lou (Snider), their children Mary Angela (Kevin), Harry Jr. (Linda), Elizabeth Teresa (Tony), and Roberta Ann, 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren and by his older sister "Petie" of Macon, Georgia.

An inurnment of Harry's ashes will be held at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his memory to the San Marcos Lions Club, San Marcos Crime Stoppers, or to the church of your choice.

**Edward J. Candelaria (1939 – 2015).** Edward Candelaria, age 76, went to be with the Lord on Monday, October 26th, 2015. He was a life-long resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico and attended St. Francis Xavier, High School, and received his Bachelor's degree from St. Joseph's College.

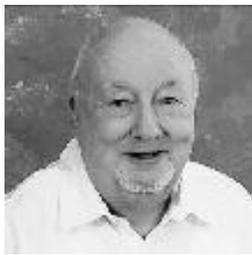


Edward retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Chief of Real Estate. He negotiated and acquired several refuges for the Service, including endangered species habitats and was always proud to use his Spanish when needed. However, he felt that his greatest accomplishment in life was being a devoted "Grandpa."

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Irene "Lillian" Candelaria; his children Sheryl, (Marshall) Angell, and Maria Candelaria; his sister Patricia Candelaria; his brother Ernie Candelaria; his grandchildren, Ariel, Gabrielle, Raquel, Dante Jr., and Michelle Garcia; in-laws, Carmen Aragon, John and Debby Aragon, Shirley and Richard Gonzales, Irene Aragon; and several nieces and nephews.

**Willard J. Frazier (1929 – 2015).** Retired Law Enforcement Agent Willard (Bill) Frazier passed away on November 5, 2015 in Decatur, Georgia after an extended illness. He was 86.

Bill was a Game Warden in Texas before joining the Fish and Wildlife Service as a Game Management Agent in Oklahoma, then a Special Agent in the Regional Office in Atlanta for many years. He retired from the Service in 1981.



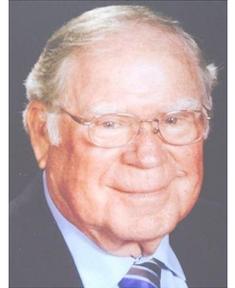
Bill loved the outdoors and enjoyed fishing, camping and searching for arrowheads and other Indian relics. He also served some time as a member of the Georgia Fish and Wildlife Commission. He was a long time member of Rehoboth Baptist Church.

Surviving Bill are his wife, Novene Frazier; daughters Debbie A. Hammond (Danny), Linda Lovett (Jason), Debbie Bush (Tommy) and son, Eddie Frazier (Donna). Also surviving are several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Bill is interred interment at Floral Hills Memory Gardens in Tucker, Georgia.

**Dennis (Denny) Holland (1934 – 2015).** Dennis (Denny) Franklin Holland died peacefully at home on Friday morning November 20th in Eufaula, Alabama after a long, valiant struggle with cancer. He was 81.

Denny was born on August 21, 1934 in Mars Bluff, South Carolina to Ernest Franklin and Eileen O'Shea Holland. He inherited his father's sense of humor and his Irish mother's love of scotch. He had a wonderful time attending Clemson University until Uncle Sam said "I Want You". He was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Korea from 1954-1956. Upon his discharge from the Army, Denny entered Murray State College in Kentucky on the GI Bill to pursue a degree in Agronomy. It was in Kentucky that Denny met the love of his life, Mary Kathryn (Kathy) Mitchell, whom he married on August



8, 1959. Together they had three children, who were a great source of pride to Denny, most of the time, especially when they exhibited his sense of adventure and humor.

Denny served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 76 years beginning as a small child when his dad was Refuge Manager at Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. Apparently, Denny had the National Wildlife Refuge System in his blood and followed this conservation tradition by serving at Santee NWR, Cape Romain NWR, Holla Bend NWR, Eufaula NWR, Back Bay NWR, and Chincoteague NWR. Denny also served as Area Wildlife Refuge Supervisor in Jackson, Mississippi, and as Branch Chief of Wildlife Resources in Washington, D.C. During his more than 30 years of active service, Denny mentored both his staff and colleagues (including a future Director and future Deputy Director), and passed on the FWS gene to his daughter, Colleen Holland, who also works for the agency.

When he retired, Kathy saw to it that Denny's first job was to clean out the garage. He donated about half of his garage accumulations to the archives at NCTC. At about the same time FWS Heritage Committee was formed (in 1992), with Denny as a charter member. Apparently Denny failed to completely clean out his garage because he became sidetracked by making daily phone calls to retirees from his many rolodexes. This led Denny to help establish the Association of FWS Retirees in 1998, a group which began with about dozen members and grew to over 2000 members today. Denny also continued to teach courses at NCTC, conduct oral histories, and serve on the Heritage Committee and the Board of the Retirees Association in his so-called retirement.

Denny's involvement with Fish and Wildlife Service enriched his life and the agency has been immeasurably enriched by his myriad contributions. Denny cherished the times he spent with his family, and his colleagues both in and out of the Service. He had the natural ability to identify instantly with people and their interests. When you met him, you knew you were important to him. What you didn't know was how meaningful he would become to you.

Denny was preceded in death by his parents Ernest and Eileen Holland, his sister Patricia Holland Rinehart, and his son Patrick Dennis Holland. Denny is survived by his wife of 56 years, Kathy Holland, and his two daughters Victoria Elizabeth Bloxom (Robert) and Patricia Colleen Holland (Grant Greenwalt). Denny is also survived by: his six grandchildren Holly Evans Vaught (Edward), Reed Evans, Jaime Bloxom, and Patrick, Maxwell, and Cassidy Greenwalt; his two great-grandchildren Konnor and Kaiden Vaught; his sister Colleen Yates; and his many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Funeral services for Denny were held at St James Episcopal Church in Eufaula with interment following at Mount Hope Cemetery in Florence, South Carolina. Donations may be made in Denny's name to: The Association of FWS Retirees, 698 Conservation Way Shepherdstown, West Virginia, 25443-4024, the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN) <https://49906.thankyou4caring.org/donatenow>, or St. James Episcopal Church in Eufaula, Alabama.

**Phillip Martin (1930 – 2016).** Quinault Indian Nation elder Phillip Edwin Martin, 85, passed away on January 2, 2016 at his family home in Taholah, Washington. His Indian name was *Hunaschult*, or Thunder Elk. Martin was born in Aberdeen to Clara Bagley and Edwin Martin. He attended several schools, including Clearwater School, Taholah High School and graduated from Peninsula College in 1979. He had 13 siblings and grew up in a home without electricity or running water. "If you are not used to having it, you don't miss it," Martin said.

Martin served for many years as a member of the Quinault Business Committee and also managed the Quinault National Fish Hatchery for 25 years. He was also Enterprise Manager and manager of Quinault Land and Timber until his retirement in the mid-1990s.

He was a fisherman, hunter, clam digger, scuba diver, baseball enthusiast and strong supporter of tribal education, culture and treaty rights. Martin was well known in the sport fishing world as an astute fishing guide and was featured on several television programs. He was active with the annual tribal canoe journeys year after year and traveled extensively to participate and support participants.

He is survived by his wife Lynell Watt, nine children, five sisters and three brothers. He was preceded in death by his wife of more than 40 years, Rose Martin, and son Terry Lee James.

"This is a very sad time for all of us here at Quinault Nation," said Quinault Nation President Fawn Sharp. "Phil Martin has meant so much to all of us for so long. He has been a source of wisdom, courage and strength, a man of great foresight and a friend to all. We will miss him but we know he is with God now and we are committed to continue taking the many lessons he shared with us to heart". His son David remarked "I could never follow in the man's footsteps. He was, and is, so very special and we love him more than we can say".

**Wesley C. Thompson (1921 – 2015).** Wesley Thompson, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, Navy veteran, hunter, trapper, farmer, wildlife conservationist, federal game warden and aide to the handicapped, died on December 5, 2015,

in St. Cloud, Minnesota, at the age of 94. Wesley was born to John and Inga Thompson on October 28, 1921, in Princeton, Blue Hill Township, Minnesota and lived a long and exciting life.

After growing up on the family farm, he enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served aboard the USS Bull, where he rose to the rank of chief machinists mate. His ship crossed the Atlantic Ocean 12 times as it escorted troop ships and went after German subs. Later, the Bull went through the Panama Canal to the Pacific Ocean as an attack patrol ship, bringing frogmen to clear the beaches for the Marines to attack. He earned three battle stars in World War II for actions in the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

After the war, Wes came home, met and married Floy Miller, and farmed and raised a family in Blue Hill Township. He worked the dairy farm for 20 years. In the mid-1960s, Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge was formed as 30,000 acres were purchased, including many farms and property in Blue Hill Township. The refuge offered a job to Wesley as a maintenance foreman: he accepted and that launched his 21-year Fish and Wildlife Service career. Wes and his crews built roads, dikes, trails and observation platforms, fenced the borders of the refuge and raised Canada geese which set the stage for the thriving wildlife refuge Sherburne has become. During that time, he became a federal conservation officer as well, enforcing hunting rules and regulations on the refuge.

Upon retiring from the Service in 1988, Wesley started yet another career, working for 11 years for the Mille Lacs County Developmental Achievement Center where he assisted disabled clients. Wesley enjoyed hunting, fishing, snowshoeing and horseshoe pitching. He was also known to ride Arabian stallions in horse shows. He built a lake cabin near Itasca State Park which he enjoyed for many years.

Wesley is survived by his loving and dedicated wife of 68 years, Floy; daughters Karen Baker (Dave), Donna Cook, Marcia Rehbine (Daryl), and Lisa Ekstrom (Brad); sons Thomas (Brenda) and John; 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by son Curtis Wesley, parents John and Inga, and brothers and sisters John Eldore, Beryl, Richard, Roger, Glen and Jordis.

Wesley's funeral was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Zimmerman, Minnesota on December 12, 2015 and he was buried later in Oak Hill Cemetery, less than a mile from where he was born on the Thompson family farm.

# FWS RETIREES ASSOCIATION



*Why join?  
Keep connected to USFWS, renew friendships,  
make new friends with similar interests,  
travel to unique wild places, and/or  
do volunteer work for fish and wildlife conservation.<sup>1</sup>*

## Membership Application/Renewal/Update

Fill out and mail **OR** use online form and PayPal on our website at <http://www.fwsretirees.org/>

Please complete each section in **BLOCK LETTERS** using Black Ink

This is a: New Application \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Information Update \_\_\_ (CHECK ONE)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Partner: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

FWS Program (at retirement) \_\_\_\_\_

Office and Region \_\_\_\_\_ Retirement Date \_\_\_\_\_

### YOUR INTEREST AREA(S), PLEASE CHECK:

- Heritage – oral and written histories, artifacts, photo records; celebrate station anniversaries
- Mentoring – youth activities, new employees;
- Communication - newsletter articles, web page, Friends Groups, members, current employees
- Membership – Regional captain, recruiting; marketing
- Travel with other members – national and international volunteer projects
- Reunion location – site selection, tours, program, auction, Walk for Wildlife

DUES (TAX DEDUCTIBLE): \_\_\_ 1-yr - \$25.00 \_\_\_ 2-yr - \$50.00 \_\_\_ 3-yr - \$75.00\* \_\_\_ 5-yr - \$100 \_\_\_ Lifetime - \$500

**\_\_\_ Get me in the database! I'm a new retiree! No dues needed!**

\_\_\_ Send a membership pin (one per member only)

**Make check payable to and mail completed applications to:  
Treasurer, FWS Retirees Association, PO Box 27896, Panama City, FL. 32411**

A retiree is any person who worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
and has now retired, including their spouses or partners.

If you were caught up in a reorganization, retired from another agency, or took on a second career,  
but still consider yourself part of the FWS family, you are an eligible retiree.

Among these are colleagues that were formerly in Research, Animal Damage Control,  
or certain National Fish Hatcheries transferred to State operation

<sup>1</sup> By adding your name to the Retirees database, you will continue to enjoy FW News and Refuge Update and will receive announcements of other fun and rewarding Retirees activities. No dues are required to be added to the database. You will have voting membership privileges for one year. Dues are voluntary and support Association activities. We hope that you will join in the future!