

James (Jim) A. Hanson (1921 - 2013)



Jim Hanson

Heather Ridge Colorado -- The Chimney Hill Board would like to let everyone know that Jim Hanson passed away on July 2, 2013. He was 92 years old. One of Heather Ridge, Chimney Hill's long term residents, and past HOA board member, he and his wife, Noreen, purchased their unit on January 1, 1979. They planned to celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary next month. A World War II pilot, he later flew commercially for Frontier airlines for over 30 years. He had the mind of an engineer and the heart of a patriot. He saluted police officers as a show of respect for the job they do and he smiled at everyone he met. He told many neighbors how lucky he felt every day waking up to his 92-acre backyard of rolling hills of grass, the beautiful lake, birds, and good neighbors. He always said that he thanked God every morning that he was given another day here.

Seeing Jim Hanson walking his little dog Missy several times a day, even in the snow, was such an important part of the scenery at Chimney Hill at Heather Ridge. Jim will be greatly missed.

Denver Colorado – James Arthur (Jim) Hanson, 92, passed to his reward Tuesday, July 2, 2013 at Presbyterian/St Luke's hospital surrounded by his family. Mr. Hanson experienced a fall on Saturday, June 15, broke his hip and had surgery on Sunday, June 16. A few days later, he was diagnosed with pneumonia and spent several weeks in ICU. He received the utmost care and respect by all who served him during this entire time.

Mr. Hanson is survived by his sweetheart of 70 years Noreen (Capps) Hanson and three daughters, Karen (Richard) Madsen, Michelle (Buzz) Cleveland, and Cheryl Hanson; an unofficially adopted daughter Linda Daniel; a sister Virginia Smith; and a nephew Peter (Mary Lois) Smith. He was blessed with eleven beautiful grandchildren, fifteen greatgrandchildren, and many close and dear friends and associates. Mr. Hanson was born February 12, 1921 in Los Angeles, California, the son of the late Arthur Hanson and Lucile (Low) Hanson.

He graduated from Pomona Junior College about 1941, joined the Naval Air Core and went to flight training in Corpus Christi, Texas. He saw active duty during WWII in the Pacific theater flying PBVs with the Black Cat Squadron on bombing, rescue, and reconnaissance missions. Mr. Hanson was honorably discharged from his military service, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander, and served loyally in the Naval Reserve for twenty plus years. A year ago, he was so proud to participate in a Rocky Mountain Honor Flight to Washington DC that paid tribute to America's war veterans. Mr. Hanson was a professional airline pilot. He began his flying career with TWA out of Kansas. About 1949 he hired on with Monarch Airlines, a Denver based company. They later changed their name to Frontier Airlines and it wasn't long before Jim became a captain. He loved to fly, and reveled in the opportunity to operate a variety of aircraft as the company acquired more and more modern equipment. He enjoyed a rewarding 30 plus years with Frontier leaving only when he reached the mandatory retirement age of sixty in 1981.

Mr. Hanson filled his retirement years with a wide variety of activities. He had a passion for business and served on the boards of several Colorado based banks, helping them expand and increase in value. He also owned a leasing company supplying equipment to businesses in the community. Through the years, he was part owner in a store in Parker, in a motorcycle shop in Denver, in a wood working shop that specialized in commercial applications, and most recently in a thriving steel company. At one point, he even shared ownership in a buffalo herd. He was actively involved with each business venture and spent many happy hours working with them. Throughout his life, Mr. Hanson participated in the Airline Pilots Association and the Retired Airline Pilots Association, actively representing Frontier pilots on a local and national level. He was also busy with the retired military group, organizing, leading, and participating in every way possible. Mr. Hanson was very proud to be a card carrying member of the Coeur d' Alene Indian tribe that anciently walked the lands of Montana, Idaho and Washington. This honor came through his maternal grandmother.

A member of the Catholic Church since childhood, Mr. Hanson was full of curiosity and loved to learn. He was regarded as a man with a high sense of honor and integrity. He loved people and animals alike and was always quick to help whenever he could. He was kind, happy, and hospitable; he was a true friend to all. Mr. Hanson had an adventurous and fulfilling life and his blessed memory will long be cherished.