

Milo Wesley Burke

1925-2022

Milo Wesley Burke, known as Wes to his family and friends, was born in Worland, Wyoming on December 2, 1925, to his parents, Milo Burke Jr. (often called Colonel) and Gladys Trank Burke.

He grew up in Ten Sleep Canyon on the family property known as the Wigwam on Ten Sleep Creek. The Wigwam was a well-known summer resort that included fishing ponds. Life in the canyon was filled with fishing, hunting, riding, and exploring the Big Horn mountains. He attended Ten Sleep School and graduated in 1943. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a radio operator on the USS Saint Croix in the Pacific theatre during WWII. He remained on active duty for two years, receiving the Asiatic Pacific Area Campaign Medal, American Area Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

Following the war, Wes attended the University of Wyoming, where he married Roberta Rachel Garretson of Clearmont, Wyoming in 1950. Wes graduated with a B.S. in Agriculture in 1953.

Working for the Forest Service and in range management, he and Roberta live in Wyoming, Texas, Nevada, and then New Mexico. Missing family and Wyoming, they returned to the state in 1955. Wes was guiding a group of hunters who were so impressed with his mathematical and analytical skills that they offered him a job with Gateway Erectors, a construction contractor and construction products manufacturing company. It was then he and Roberta moved to Chicago. A few years later, Wes moved to St. Louis to open and manage a branch of the company that was part of a team of builders who worked on the St. Louis Gateway Arch Museum. Wes and Roberta remained in St. Louis where they raised two daughters and a son, Brenda Joyce [Schaeffer], Lori Lynn [Newcomer], and Milo Matthew Burke. Wes continued to work in the construction industry until his retirement at age 85.

True to his Wyoming roots, Wes was an avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman. He was a long-standing member and board officer of the St. Louis Big Game Hunters Club. His work on the board included the promotion of good sportsmanship and principles of conservation. He regularly taught gun safety courses for youth. Milo Wesley Burke died on August 10, 2022, and was laid to rest in the family plot of the Ten Sleep Cemetery, close to the creek and in the canyon he loved so much as a youth.