



The Rio Blanco County Pioneers Association

Spirit of the Pioneers Award

Posthumously Conferred Upon

Patricia Ann Anderson

This Third Day of June, 2023

The legendary Pioneer Spirit of the hardy and brave men, women and children who experienced great dangers, hardships, illness and uncertainty to journey West into the beautiful White River Valley continues in many of their descendants today. There, they created homesteads, farms, ranches and businesses requiring a great deal of courage, grit, determination and faith to endure, to do the right thing and to greatly succeed. Their enviable and proud legacy lives on in their pioneer descendants, some of whose families have remained through many generations in this wonderful country.

Patricia Ann Collins Anderson of Meeker, Colorado passed away peacefully on January 4th, 2023. Patty was born March 26th, 1941 to Dallas James and Anna Margaret (Burke) Collins. After graduating from Meeker High School in May of 1959, Patty married Alfred Marlin George in June of the same year. From this union, came four children: Edy Lynn, James Alfred, Jo Anna, and Thomas Richard. Together, they raised their family in Cedaredge, CO. Patty was part of many organizations including Cedar Teens, Little Britches Rodeo, was a member of the Surface Creek Art Festival, as well as many other organizations and activities. In 1979, Patty moved back to Meeker where she met and later married the love of her life, Harold John Anderson. The couple was married in September of 1981. With this union, Patty gained two more children, John Travis Anderson and Tracey Dawn (Anderson) Olmsted.

Patty was extremely passionate about the preservation and history of Rio Blanco County. She was an active 30-year Board member of the Rio Blanco County Historical Society and White River Museum, as an exhibits docent where she coordinated the restoration and display of art and regalia of the Native American White River Ute Tribe artifacts as well as the U.S. Cavalry military regalia and artifacts of the Garrison Officers Quarters with Tom Kilduff. Patty and Harold served on the Range Call Committee and were named Parade Grand Marshalls. Patty served on the Annual *Twilight of the Ute Empire* Pageant staff with regalia and makeup for actors, coaching children in the cast, repairing and replacing costumes and much more. Patty and Harold served on the Pioneers Association Committee and attended Old Timers reunions for four decades. Patty and Harold initiated a restoration and conservancy of historic rural gravesites of Rio Blanco County, ensuring gravesites were catalogued and suitable markers provided. She also was an active member of the Rio Blanco Cattlewomens Association. She took great pride in preserving the history of the place she called home, and people she called family.

Patty was preceded in death by her parents, Dallas and Anna Collins; her brothers Ed and his wife Carolyn Collins; Joseph Collins; Richard Collins; her father-in-law, Carl Anderson and mother-in-law Margrete Anderson Johnson, as well as many other family members and dear friends. She is survived by her loving husband of 41 years, Harold Anderson; her six children Edy Lynn George; James (Cheryl) George; Jo Anna (Lonnie) Tate; Thomas (Jennifer) George; Travis (Teresa) Anderson; Tracey (Josh) Olmsted, 18 grandchildren, four great grandchildren, sisters in law Donna (Joe) Collins and Sally (Richard) Collins, as well as many other family members and friends.

In witness whereof, for Distinguished Servant Leadership and Service, the Rio Blanco County Pioneers Association proudly confers this posthumous recognition.

Jonny Murray, RBCPA President 2023