

Joseph J. 'Joe' Craze

Nov. 1, 1929 -- Sept. 6, 2002

MONTROSE -- Joseph J. "Joe" Craze, age 72, of Montrose, died early Friday morning, Sept. 6, 2002, at the University of Colorado Hospital in Denver.

Joseph J. Craze, the son of Joseph I. And Beatrice Craze, was born on Nov. 1, 1929, in Cumberland, Md. He graduated from Fort Hill High School in 1947 and then served his country in the United States 76th Engineers for four years in Japan and Korea.

At the time of his death, Joe and his wife Pat (Wressell) Craze of Okanogan, Wash., were privileged to have shared 48 wonderful years of marriage.

Joe graduated from Embry Riddle School of Aviation and loved his job in maintenance at Frontier Airlines, first as a mechanic, then Maintenance Inspector for 33 years until Frontier dissolved in 1986. He worked five years as Aviation Safety Inspector with the FAA in Kansas City, Mo.

After retiring Joe excelled in Senior Olympics, competing in swimming and field events. He and Pat traveled the U.S. competing in Senior Olympics, qualifying many times for Nationals. During their travels, they met many wonderful people.

Joe belonged to the Montrose Masonic Lodge, No. 63 A.F. & A.M. He sang several years in the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus and was a member of the Montrose Christian Church.

Joe's joys in this life were his Lord, his family and his friends. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping his entire lifetime. In addition, he used his skills to restore his cars, build additions to his houses and grow some of the best vegetables in his garden.

Survivors, including the love of his life Pat, are: two sons: Martin Craze and Theresa (Sagstetter) and children: Chris and Missy, of Columbus, Ohio; Nate Craze and Lillian (Crippen), of Boulder, Colo.; two daughters: Kay and Scott Gregory and children: Candice and Jennifer, of Santa Clarita, Calif.; Janice and Mike Dimond and children: Ben, Zach and Maddie, of Castle Rock, Colo.; one great grandchild, Reagan; one sister, Doris and Len Diamond, of Windsor, Conn.; two brothers: Roger Craze and Jo Ann, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Bob Craze, of Jim Thorpe, Pa.; and one cousin, Harry Lowrey, of Gaithersburg, Md.

Visitation for family and friends is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Crippin Funeral Home Chapel in Montrose.

A funeral service in celebration of Joe's life will be officiated by Minister Ronnie Hanna Thursday, Sept. 12, at 10 a.m. at the Montrose Christian Church, with interment following in the Grand View Cemetery, west of Montrose.

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