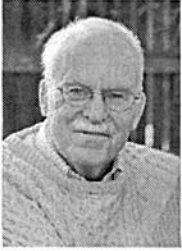


**William John Dean Kennedy(1924 - 2018)**

William John Dean Kennedy (John) passed away peacefully at his home in Boulder on February 3, 2018, at the age of 93. He was born September 15, 1924, in St. Paul, Minnesota to Elisabeth Dean Kennedy and Walter Joseph Kennedy. He was raised with an appreciation for music, art, poetry, and literature, and the Minnesota outdoors and its sports, including skiing, canoeing, hunting, and fishing. John graduated from St. Paul Academy in 1942 and enrolled at Williams College. Already an avid skier, in spring 1943 at the age of 18, with his best friend Billy Skinner and the required letters of recommendation in hand, he enlisted in the newly formed US Army 10th Mountain Division and shipped out to Camp Hale, Colorado. There he contracted rheumatic fever during the rough training. He spent six months in the hospital at Camp Hale and was discharged from the Army as a 100% disabled veteran, with a heart murmur and hearing loss. True to form, the thing he remembered most from his hospital stay was the slinky red dress Jinx Falkenburg wore (Google her) during her hospital visit to Camp Hale. In April 1945 Sgt. Billy Skinner was killed by a sniper in the Po Valley in Italy. John told Billy's father that he would think of him every time he put on a pair of skis. Nearly 50 years later he wrote Billy's sister, upon the dedication of the Skinner Hut near Leadville, to say that he had kept that promise. John enrolled at Harvard, where he was the manager of the ski team, and where he was also lucky enough to be tutored in English by W. Jackson Bate. He graduated in 1946 with a degree in English Literature, an appreciation for which informed and enhanced the rest of his life. He then joined the longtime family sporting goods business in downtown St. Paul, Kennedy Bros. Arms Company. Soon after he also purchased a farm north of St. Paul and raised cattle. In December 1949 he met Lucretia Florence Decker at a party, and a two-hour conversation on a stairway led to a wedding on November 1, 1950 and a marriage that lasted 67 years. They honeymooned in New Mexico, kindling a lifelong love of the state. Always captivated by the wide open spaces and the peoples of the West, not to mention the skiing, fly fishing and mountaineering, he took the opportunity of his father's retirement to close the family business and move his family west to Boulder in 1962, where he became a senior administrator at NCAR. He worked at NCAR from 1962 to 1974, when he became the executive director of the Rocky Mountain Center on Environment, later Accord Associates, which mediated public environmental disputes. He managed mediations for Three Mile Island, Mono Lake, the Alaska pipeline, Denver International Airport, among many others. In 1988, with co-author Susan L. Carpenter, he wrote *Managing Public Disputes: a Practical Guide to Handling Conflict and Reaching Agreements*, a text still in use today for classes on the mediation of public disputes. In his retirement, he also wrote *On the Plains with Custer and Hancock: The Journal of Isaac Coates, Army Surgeon*. It was drawn from the journal of wife Lucretia Kennedy's great-grandfather, Isaac Coates, who was a medical officer with the US Army 7th Cavalry under George Armstrong Custer in 1867, riding out of Fort Riley, Kansas. Coates had the opportunity to meet many legendary tribal chiefs, for whom he had great respect and sympathy, and he testified at Custer's court-martial. John always participated in volunteer organizations. In the late fifties and early sixties he was chairman of the Minnesota Governor's Action Committee on Indian Affairs, where he battled the Bureau of Indian Affairs for tribal sovereignty over their natural resources. He was a member of the Arapahoe Basin Ski Patrol from 1962 to 1968 and was an avalanche rescue instructor. He was a Disaster Action Team Captain for the American Red Cross and received the Mile High Chapter Honor Roll Award in 1995 for his exceptional service. He and Lucretia loved to travel and, among others, took five extended trips to Kenya and made repeated visits to Europe, especially the Provence region of France. John's brothers Walter Kennedy and Roger G. Kennedy preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Lucretia D. Kennedy of Boulder, his children, Walter J. Kennedy II of Longmont, Jonathan D. Kennedy of Berthoud, Ross D.W. Kennedy of Pleasant Hill, California, and Elisabeth Kennedy of Longmont, and by grandchildren Julia Kennedy and Stuart Kennedy, and step-grandchildren Judah Kuper and Sahra Kuper. Instead of flowers, contributions can be made to Humane Society of Boulder Valley, ASPCA, the Nature Conservancy or the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross. A memorial gathering to celebrate his life will be held in Boulder at Chautauqua Community House on Friday, February 23 at 12:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

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