

INSIDE *Singletree*

NOVEMBER 2020

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SINGLETREE

THE MOHR *family*

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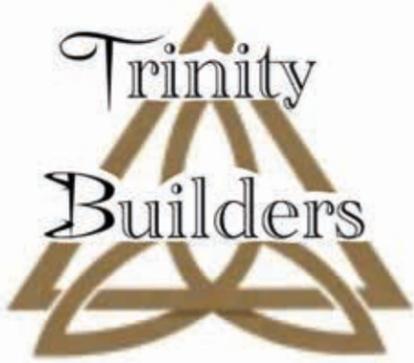
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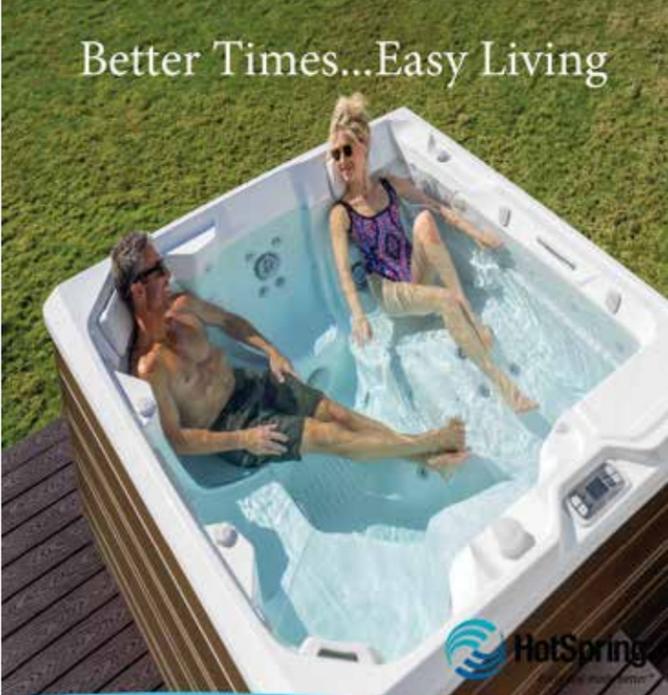
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publisher's note

HELLO *Singletree Residents!*

Welcome November! Now is the time to celebrate our blessings! We will look back at 2020 as a year of unprecedented challenges including a global pandemic, raging wild fires, and national riots and protests... to name a few. Despite these obstacles, we know we are strong and resilient, we are truly fortunate to live in this glorious valley and we are thankful every day for our friends and family.

Who knew that romance can bloom at Pazzo's Pizzeria? Just ask Scott and Kari Mohr who first met while working at the Vail hotspot 10 years ago this month. Having moved into the neighborhood in March in the midst of the coronavirus, they are thrilled to be settled into their new home in Singletree with their sons, Leland and Axel, and the latest addition to the family, Bluebell. Please join me in welcoming them to the neighborhood!

On Veterans Day this November 11, the United States honors those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

INSIDE Singletree and the residents of Singletree are honored to pay tribute to Jerry Greven, Bill Welch and Mike Kavanaugh for their service to our country that grants us our safety and freedom in the lives we enjoy today. In addition to honoring these three veterans, Debbie Robbins shares with us the beginnings of the Veterans Awareness Week when, 22 years ago, she was recruited by Buddy Sims to organize patriotic assemblies at the Vail schools... today she organizes the program for more than 20 schools!

I am excited to launch a new feature in our magazine to introduce our second homeowners: SUPER SECONDS. The Miller family joins us here and shares their Singletree story and why this community is so meaningful to all three generations. We are enlightened by Bill Cotton and Claus Tjaden as to the tremendous impact SOS Outreach has on underserved kids and here, they share their personal reasons for passionately supporting this wonderful non-profit organization. All this and more in this issue!

May every day in November fill your days with hope, love, sunshine (and snow), joy, fun and laughter. Have a memorable and Happy Thanksgiving!



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Have you checked out our **INSIDE Singletree** pages on Facebook and Instagram? Be sure to like and follow us on our social media pages! And be sure to tag @insidesingletree to be featured on our page!



Olga Barron
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Debbie Robbins
Content Advisor &
Singletree Stars



Dana Walker
Social Instigator



Tim Swift
Resident Writer



Jim Ruh
Resident Writer



Scott and Kari Mohr
Meet Your Neighbors



Jerry Greven
Singletree Tribute



Mindy and Rick Miller
Super Seconds



Carri Tedstrom
Sponsor Spotlight



Bill Welch
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Bill Cotton
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Mike Kavanaugh
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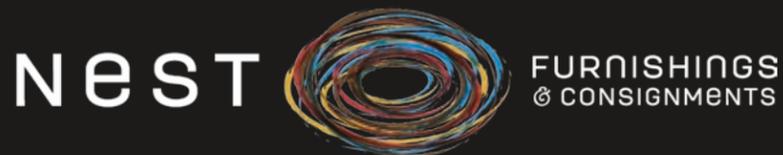
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Our small business supports several local families through employment and by servicing and repairing a wide range of vehicles. Tiny sedans and sports cars as well as SUVs and personal trucks are all welcome. Our mechanics service and repair domestic and foreign makes and models 1996 or newer. We also value how our business connects with other Colorado and U.S. businesses through our supplier networks of parts, tools, fluids, and more.

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BONNIE MARLETTE SECURITY NATIONAL MORTGAGE COMPANY

I started working in the mortgage industry when I moved to Eagle County in 2002; I am blessed to be able to raise my two boys here. With 17 years of experience, I am knowledgeable on all loan product types. I help locals, investors and second homeowners alike. I can originate all conventional and government loans including HomeReady, Jumbo, FHA, VA, USDA, CHFA and other down payment assistance programs.

Whether you are looking for a new loan with great terms or seeking a better refinance option, I will individually consult with you to fully understand your personal needs so that I can find the best solution for you. I believe clear communication is critical in this process so my team and I will keep you updated every step of the way. I am committed to earning your long term respect every time you choose to do business with me; my clients are my best source for new business and my service is key to helping me earn your referrals. I look forward to the opportunity to earn your business and I am confident you will be very happy!

Located in the heart of Riverwalk in Edwards, you can reach Bonnie at **970-331-2919** or Bonnie.Marlette@snmc.com.

If you have worked with a professional and reliable business who you would recommend to your Singletree neighbors, please email your referrals to holly.proctor@n2pub.com. We would love to introduce these quality businesses to other residents in your community!





SCOTT, KARI, LELAND, & AXEL MOHR

Hi! We're Scott and Kari and these are our kids and dog. If you haven't met us yet that's for good reason, we moved into Singletree in early March. So, you know, things have been a little...different.

At least for us, different has come with a lot of silver linings. Watching out our windows in those first days after the mountains closed and seeing the string of skiers skinning up Arrowhead, enjoying having a yard for our kids for the first time, languidly settling into our new home and neighborhood. Time slowed as we all grappled with the unknown; businesses shut down and online orders backed up. Our living room and bedroom sat empty for the first couple of months, becoming spaces for dance parties, cup stacking and blanket forts. Grandparents had been out to help us move; we didn't know we were squeezing in our last trip with them before an indefinite time apart.

BUT LET'S JUMP BACK A LITTLE.

Kari: It was 10 years ago this month that I first laid eyes on Scott behind the pizza bar at Pazzo's in Vail Village and was immediately smitten. I had just moved to town and started waitressing there a few weeks before, while Scott was a comfortable veteran returning to his part time gig after visiting his family in western New York during the off-season.

Scott: Kari had spent her previous winter at Sugarloaf. Having grown up in San Diego, her ski vacations were not of the interior Maine sort but after her last season she was eager to explore this new mountain. We shared many fun con-



versations and made arrangements to take a few runs together once the mountain opened. The fun that we shared on those first runs turned into a winter of laughs and falls with numerous friends as we rode the mountain together and set us up with a great foundation for what was ahead!

Kari: Back then Scott rocked a pencil mustache and long hair, and he and his friend group were an inspiring bunch of snowboarders that I admired. They were creative and passionate in their approach to life and the mountain, challenging

each other to be better riders and people. They'd been working multiple jobs and snowboarding together throughout their 20s, but soon all that would change. 30 loomed and would soon pull us each in our own directions.

Scott: We witnessed plenty of friends make the big decision to move out of the area in the pursuit of new careers and relationships but we chose to stay put. That decision always sat well with us and once our family started to grow we were pleasantly surprised to see many of our friends make more frequent return visits. The arrival of our first born not only beckoned the return of great friends but we were also introduced to the numerous facets of family life in this valley.

Kari: As our first baby, Leland, grew, so did the footprint of our explorations in the valley. Our once Vail centric life began to expand with play dates and Tumble Tots; playground discovery missions and pump track outings. By the time Axel came along, the lens of family had given us an even deeper appreciation for the Vail Valley and the multitude of experiences that life in our mountain community has to offer.

Scott: Once you find the families in this valley you learn about their experience. Kari and I have been fortunate to have met many young adults that grew up here and parents that made this the backdrop to their family story. Eagle County is a gem and the list of unique attributes across neighborhoods is impressive but we kept hearing about this love for Singletree. A love shared by old and new. ●●●



meet your neighbors

Photography by Olga Barron Photography Inc.



...

Kari: So it was with excitement that we moved in this March, and even a pandemic couldn't stifle the obvious warmth and community of our new neighborhood. The boys' legs have grown strong biking up and down the hills to the playgrounds and we've discovered that there are far more close encounters with critters here than in our previous Vail Valley neighborhoods - from the vole that just can't seem to get enough of our flower bed to the bobcat that slunk through our yard in September.

Scott: We now explore as a group of five (including one very lovable puppy, Bluebell). And we are still finding new appreciation for a place that we have been calling home for more than a decade.

And yes, we still highly recommend Pazzo's pizza.



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117 Charolais	Duplex	3	4	2,498	Furnished	\$915,000	\$366	22	--	--	--
11 Shotgun	Duplex	3	4	2,105	Partially	\$935,000	\$444	2	--	--	--
50 Singletree	Duplex	3	4	2,267	Partially	\$1,095,000	\$483	0	--	--	--
1071 June Creek	Single Family	4	5	3,103	Unfurnished	\$1,200,000	\$387	0	--	--	--
1581 Winslow	Duplex	4	4	2,544	Unfurnished	\$1,350,000	\$531	4	--	--	--
451 Rawhide	Single Family	4	4	3,533	Unfurnished	\$1,595,000	\$451	4	--	--	--
161 Pinto	Duplex	5	6	3,569	Unfurnished	\$1,600,000	\$448	4	--	--	--
211 Hackamore	Single Family	5	6	4,221	Unfurnished	\$1,695,000	\$402	230	--	--	--
351 Longhorn	Single Family	3	3	3,898	Unfurnished	\$1,775,000	\$455	9	--	--	--
31 Longhorn	Single Family	6	5	4,208	Partially	\$2,195,000	\$522	19	--	--	--
123 Howard	Single Family	4	5	3,063	Partially	\$2,375,000	\$775	15	--	--	--
11 Buckboard	Single Family	4	5	4,069	Unfurnished	\$2,795,000	\$687	621	--	--	--
33 Latigo	Single Family	5	5	6,032	Unfurnished	\$2,875,000	\$477	77	--	--	--
120 Stetson	Duplex	4	4	2,782	Unfurnished	\$839,000	\$302	273	\$825,000	\$297	08/26/20
150 Saddle	Duplex	3	7	2,058	Unfurnished	\$995,000	\$483	149	\$977,500	\$475	08/31/20
332 June Creek	Duplex	3	3	2,234	Unfurnished	\$1,045,000	\$468	130	\$1,009,320	\$452	08/25/20
20 Miller	Duplex	3	4	2,791	Unfurnished	\$1,050,000	\$376	7	\$1,050,000	\$376	08/26/20
151 Rawhide	Single Family	4	5	3,368	Unfurnished	\$1,445,000	\$429	140	\$1,395,000	\$414	08/18/20
41 Palomino	Single Family	4	5	3,999	Unfurnished	\$1,625,000	\$406	59	\$1,575,000	\$394	08/27/20
11 Foal	Single Family	5	6	4,620	Furnished	\$2,245,000	\$486	39	\$2,195,000	\$475	09/10/20

**8.14.20 - 9.15.20 *Properties bolded were listed or sold by Happy Power.

singletree stars

Contributed by **Debbie Robbins**, Singletree Resident



young friends what a veteran was, they quickly responded, “An animal doctor, right?” And while they knew all the words to the songs from *The Little Mermaid* and *The Lion King*, they struggled with *America the Beautiful*, *Grand Old Flag* and, of course, *The Star-Spangled Banner*.

The staff at AES was super-supportive and the first Veterans Day Assembly was a huge success. The students wore red, white, and blue, they sang their little hearts out, and the vets felt beyond honored. I knew it would become an annual event.

What I didn't think about was what would happen when my boys would move on to Berry Creek Middle School and then Battle Mountain High School. Well, I soon found out. Not only did *those* schools want to host patriotic assemblies as well, but schools who didn't even know Buddy or me were reaching out. It turned out the only campus that held a traditional ceremony to recognize those who serve on Veterans Day was Red Sandstone Elementary because their beloved teacher, Tom Treat, had fought in the Vietnam War.

As industrious Buddy was growing the membership of VFW Post 10721, I was growing the Veterans Day Programs to all the county's schools, both public and private. We decided to offer patriotic



assemblies to elementary and middle school audiences and more intimate seminars to those at the high schools. This after the whole school assembly in the big gym at the old Battle Mountain in 2004 showcased the dance team in skimpy camo outfits, a Jimi Hendrix wannabe playing that famous version of our National Anthem on a wailing electric guitar (yeah, *that* one) and some 700 restless teenagers waiting for the bell to ring. Yikes.

It was right at that time the wonderful Pat Hammon joined us when we needed her most. With her skill set and contacts, she was the right fit for the first Eagle County Veterans Service Officer and the program took off! I was no longer designing each



school's agenda but rather sending them templates from which to work. I was scheduling school visits all up and down the valley and what went from Veterans Day to Veterans Week became Veterans *Awareness* because I could no longer squeeze them all into one week!

Every year when it just seems like too much; too much time, too much energy, too many conflicts in scheduling, too many last minute changes ... and I think I can't spend this much of my year as a volunteer in this capacity, a teary veteran walks up to me at the end of a program and says, “I've been waiting *my whole life* for my service to be acknowledged like that!” Or a student runs

up to me shouting, “I just talked to a real live hero!” And I know I'm in hook, line, and sinker for another year of planning.

Although this year will certainly look different due to the pandemic, Buddy & I are already coming up with a Plan B, so that we can continue to connect our valley's veterans with local students during Veterans Awareness Week. We have grown the program to more than 20 schools in a little more than 20 years! The veterans have their personal stories and history to share and the kids are hungry to learn from those who lived it. It's a win-win situation.

How It All Began...

Debbie Robbins and Buddy Sims Launched VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK in the Vail Valley Schools

It all started with a simple question, “How would you like a couple of vets to come and visit the boys' school on Veterans Day?”

“Sure!” was my enthusiastic response.

It was 1998 and my next-door neighbor Buddy Sims was the Commander of the local VFW Post. Ascher and Parke had been attending Avon Elementary School since the day it opened its doors and, as a retired first grade teacher, I heard the call to volunteer louder than most. I had offered to take on planning

all of the school assemblies. I knew instantly that I would turn this into an educational patriotic program. The need was definitely there. If you asked my kids'





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what's happening *inside singletree*

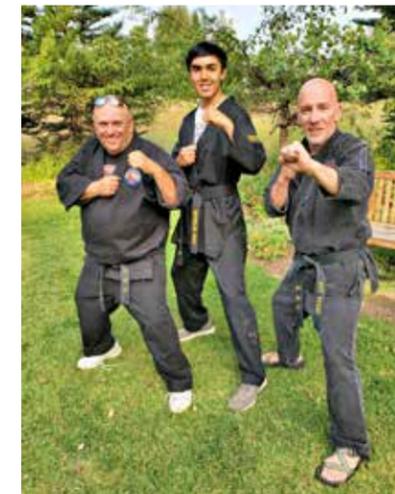
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Lessons Learned with Inyodo Martial Arts

Inyodo Martial Arts hosted a free martial arts pop up class exclusively for Singletree residents outside at the Community Center on a perfect September afternoon. While demonstrating Tae Kwon Do and Hapkido, Inyodo owner Bobcat Smith and instructor Paul Masse led their participants in a number of rigorous drills while instilling the principles of discipline, respect and self-confidence.

With parents and grandparents spectating from the sidelines, the students exuded extreme energy and enthusiasm for the class. Favorites varied among the crowd. For Gaia, it was “kicking” and for Willow, it was “punching”. Tom says the best part was “it was fun!” and Tucker loved jumping on the “big blue thing”. Liam loved jumping and kicking the “big blue thing” the most and hanging out with Cooper and Tucker; he ultimately summed it up by saying “it was SO awesome!”

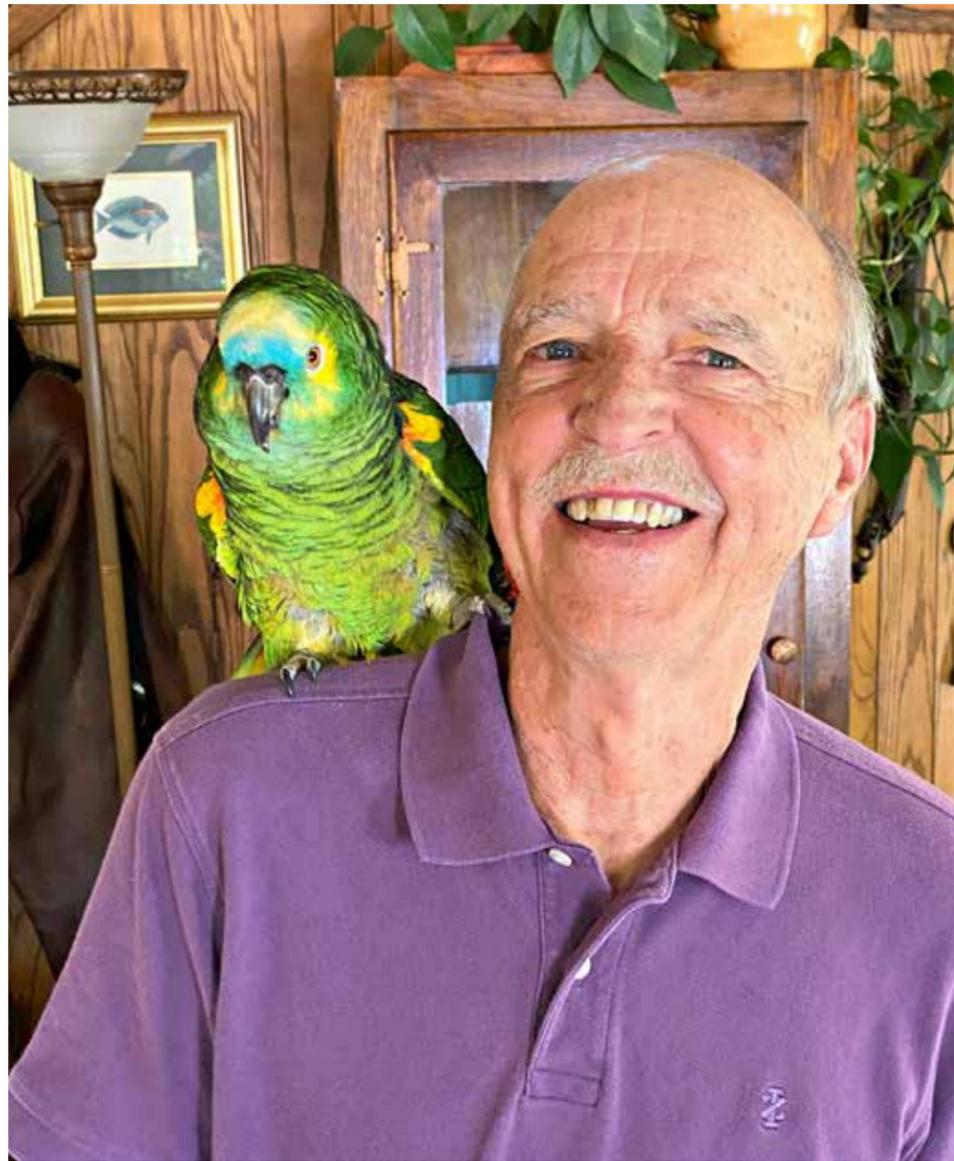
To learn more about Inyodo Martial Arts, visit www.inyodomartialarts.com or contact Bobcat at **970-569-3083**.



Captain Gerald Greven

US Air Force O-1
Birddog Pilot,
Vietnam, Laos MAC,
Travis AFB, C-141 Pilot

Air Force veteran Jerry Greven has lived on Charolais Circle with his wife Kristi and their 44-year-old (yes, you read that right) Blue Fronted Amazon parrot, Zoomer, since 1991. I recently sat down with Jerry and Zoomer in their home and discovered a Vietnam veteran with one of the most interesting odysseys I have ever encountered. His history of courage, patriotism, service, creativity and enterprise is one that is truly worth sharing.



This story begins in 1966. The Vietnam war was raging and Jerry wanted to serve. He volunteered for the Air Force with the desire to fly fighter jets. He took the Pilot Aptitude Test prior to enlistment, passed it and was told that his enlistment wouldn't take place for at least six months as their manpower needs were presently filled. Knowing that his position as a future jet pilot was secure, Jerry took off for a solo European backpacking trip and crisscrossed the continent for the next four months.

Upon returning home, Jerry's father told him that the Air Force was looking for him! He hustled over to the Air Force recruiting office ready to go, took the Pilot Aptitude test again and passed it again. While he was waiting to begin his enlistment,

he received one of those infamous notices that begins, "Greetings from the President of the United States." Those of us of a certain age know what that means; Jerry had been drafted. Fortunately, the Air Force was able to deal with that minor annoyance and Jerry was off to flight school.

Upon completion of flight school, Jerry requested that he to be assigned to fly fighter jets, but his commanding officer told him that that was not likely, and instead offered him an alternative assignment as a Forward Air Controller (FAC) in Vietnam. So Jerry headed to South East Asia where he was originally stationed at an Army base. After two months there, he was transferred to a Special Forces base. After four more months of frustration, Jerry requested a transfer to a top secret "up country" unit he had heard rumors about known as The Ravens. It turns out those rumors were true so Jerry headed up country to Vientiane, the capital of Laos where, by the way, no American forces were supposed to be. More on The Ravens and Jerry's role with them in a minute, but first a bit of history for context.

That was in 1967, and Vietnam was very much a hot war. The U.S had committed 490,000 troops to try to stop the communist takeover of Southeast Asia. In an effort to drive out the Americans as they had the French in 1954, the North Vietnamese flooded South Vietnam with soldiers and supplies using the infamous Ho Chi Minh trail that wound from North Vietnam through Laos and into South Vietnam. In an effort to stop the flow of men and

material over the Ho Chi Minh trail, the U.S. flew more than 500,000 bombing sorties over Laos.

It was the role of The Ravens to serve as Forward Air Controllers to direct these bombers to the targets the FAC's identified and evaluate their effectiveness. Flying the two seat, unarmed and unarmored Cessna O-1 Birddog, The Ravens flew low, slow, and vulnerable to ground fire in an effort to detect enemy movement. The only form of protection they had was the bulletproof vest they were issued and it was suggested that they sit on the vest rather than wear it!

Originally formed under the command of the U.S Air Force, control of The Ravens gradually shifted to the CIA and eventually into the hands of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon; all of this happening much to the disapproval of the Air Force and the Defense Department. Because of President Nixon's repeated (untruthful) assurance that the U.S. had no troops in Laos, the pilots who flew for The Ravens dressed, looked, and acted like civilians. No uniforms, largely unshaven, and with the look and attitude of true outlaws. After a visit to the unit by an Air Force general, he described the men of The Ravens "...as a ragged bunch of bandits."

It was this group of rouges to some and heroes to others that Jerry Greven found himself a part of in January 1969. Jerry survived the often perilous assignment, eventually fulfilled his commitment to his country after serving an additional 2 1/2 years as a transport pilot after leaving Laos, er, Vietnam. He left the Air Force as a Captain and with the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroics in Laos, er, Vietnam. After his military service he joined Delta Airlines as a pilot based in Miami.

His life was moving along unfettered until 1973 when the Senate Armed Services Committee began a series of hearings on the bombing of Cambodia, particularly the alleged bombing of North Vietnamese hospitals; an act specifically prohibited by the 1907 Hague Convention and the 1949 Geneva Convention, both of which the United States was party to. Word of the investigation reached Jerry, and he offered to testify about what he knew of this operation. What he knew, according to his testimony, was that he had "provided intelligence information and subsequently directed Air Force jets to bomb what was suspected to be an enemy hospital in a jungle area near Cambodia," according to an article about the hearings published in the *New York Times* on August 9, 1973.



The Banditos



He was asked and agreed to come to Washington to testify, so Jerry went to his superiors at Delta to inform them of his decision. He was told in no uncertain terms that his testimony would reflect poorly on Delta Air Lines and urged that he not mention his association with the company. As a further indication of Delta's lack of enthusiasm for Jerry's testimony, they refused to allow him to fly to Washington for free on a Delta flight which he, as a Delta employee, was entitled to do. Undaunted and determined to testify, Jerry approached a friend who was a pilot for Eastern Air Lines and asked for a ride from Miami to Washington. The flight was quickly arranged and Jerry was headed to the U.S. Senate.

He had every intention of honoring his commitment not to mention his employer as part of his testimony, yet the very first question he was asked by a member of the Committee was along the lines

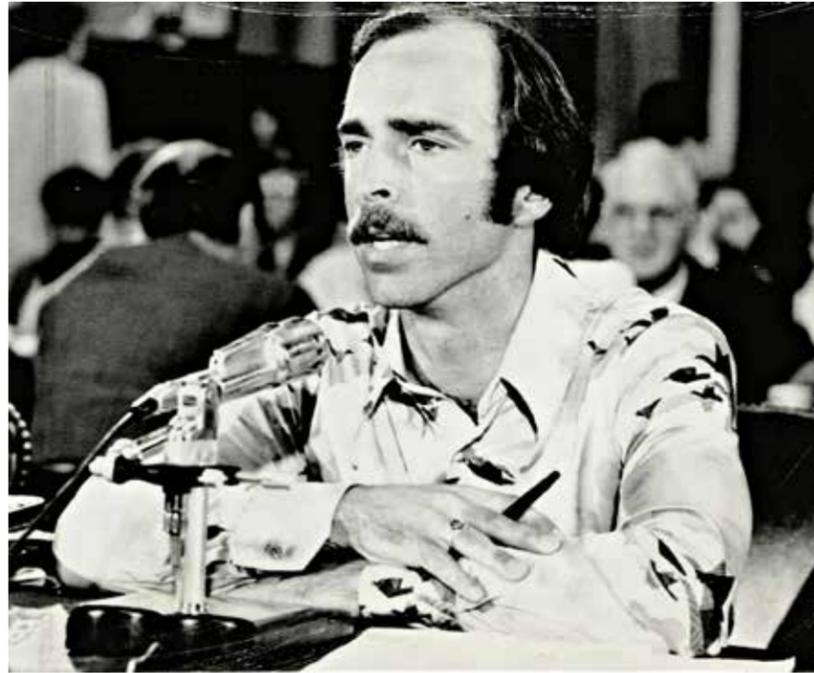


...

of "Isn't it true that you are a pilot for Delta Air Lines?" Clearly, someone had tipped off the Senator about Jerry's predicament in an effort to punish him for testifying knowing what that punishment would surely be. Upon returning to Miami, Jerry was told that his services were no longer required by Delta giving truth to the old adage that no good deed goes unpunished. Time for chapter three in Jerry Greven's odyssey.

In 1973, Jerry sold his house in Miami and moved his belongings into his father's garage in San Francisco and began a bit of drifting. His travels took him from San Francisco to Southern California and Mexico eventually landing at Lake Tahoe where he took a job at a casino as a valet and a VIP limo driver. As a limo driver he had a chance to drive and meet the likes of Elvis, The Jackson Five, Roger Miller and other stars of the day.

In 1974, Jerry and a few fellow pilots who had lost their jobs due to the gas crisis and the airline layoffs that ensued decided to head for Frisco, CO for the winter to ski. In Frisco he took a job as the bartender at the Holiday Inn. Frisco fairly quickly led to Vail where he went



Jerry testifying before the Senate Armed Forces Committee in 1973

to work as a bartender/manager at Cyrano's on Bridge Street. Eventually he and David Dowell (with financial assistance from Tom Sanders) put together a package and bought the bar/restaurant. He eventually sold his interest in Cyrano's and teamed up with John Brennan (aka Popeye) to buy Pistachio's. They changed the Italian restaurant's name to Vendetta's, which is still open today although Jerry is no longer involved.

Jerry Greven is one of the Vail Valley's and Singletree's truly memorable characters. He is a joy to spend time with, a real asset to our community, and well worth celebrating this Veteran's Day for his service and his heroism. In addition, Jerry clearly has the strength of character to do the right thing even when doing so comes at a high cost. In this case however, Delta's loss was our gain.

It is fitting that we continue to celebrate heroes like Jerry, welcome them into our community, and thank them for their service... every day.




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Rick and Mindy

Where do you live when you are not in Singletree? When we are not in Singletree, we are usually in Denver with our children and grandchildren. If it gets too cold there, we escape to our home in Scottsdale, Arizona.

What is/was your profession and/or are you working or retired? Now that my children are grown, I can say I am “retired.” Rick is in commercial real estate and is still working.

How long have you owned a property in the neighborhood? We bought our first home in 2004. When we outgrew our first home and needed more space, it was very important to us that we stay in Singletree, so we bought a home just up the street from ourselves.

How did you select Singletree as the location for your second home? We really enjoy the neighborhood and the Edwards area. Mindy is a CO native and grew up with a second home in the Vail Village. We have also lived in Eagle-Vail, settling sixteen years ago in Singletree. Singletree’s accessibility to the highway still allows us to enjoy everything the Valley has to offer. Lastly, Rick and I are avid golfers, so the accessibility to the course is always nice.



Jaime, Seth, Olivia and Ethan



Lisa, Brandon, Max and Izzie



Lauren, Andrew and Addison

How much time do you spend here? Rick and I spend a good portion of the summer months and holidays in the winter. Two of our daughters and their families are avid skiers and consider themselves “weekend warriors.” They, too, spend a good portion of the summer up here.

What are your family’s favorite interests and activities? We all like to golf and ski. Our grandchildren are part of DEVO, and it’s been fun to ski with them. Our younger grandchildren are starting to ski and they, too, will appreciate the Valley. Of course, we can’t forget the amazing hikes that are around Vail, Beaver Creek and even in the neighborhood.

What is most meaningful to your family about your time here? I think watching all our grandchildren bond and the special cousin time they share. We also love having our entire family all together.

What is a favorite family memory in Singletree? When our daughters moved away, Singletree was a place where we all gathered to spend time together. Now that we have grandkids, they love to sled along the first fairway in the winter and swim together in the summer.

super seconds

Contributed by **Mindy Miller**, Singletree Resident

meet the MILLERS



We are thrilled this month to meet the Millers, one of our Super Seconds in Singletree! Rick and Mindy Miller have 3 daughters, all of whom have married and brought grandchildren into Rick and Mindy’s world. The Miller family now includes daughter Jaime and Seth, Olivia and Ethan Altman, daughter Lisa and Brandon, Max and Izzie Rogoff, and daughter Lauren and Andrew and Addison Apple. All three generations love sharing time together at Rick and Mindy’s second home on Chaparral Road.





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Select Surfaces Flooring & Design Center has been a resource for home remodeling selections since 2001. Rob and Deb Davis and Deb's sister, Becky Maddux, opened the showroom the spring of that year. A couple of years later, Select Surfaces joined the International Design Guild, an elite group of showrooms whose goal is to bring you the best there is to offer in floor coverings, blinds, tile and stone. IDG is part of the nation's largest floor covering buying group which ensures the best pricing for customers. This collaborative of individually owned showrooms has become a premier resource for homeowners, interior designers and architects who bring inspiration to life.

In 2018, Select Surfaces was awarded Small Business of the Year by the Vail Valley Partnership. This award recognizes businesses and individuals who excel each year with their hard work, dedication and community minded approach to business. The award acknowledges the significant role they play in driving the Vail Valley's business community and economic growth.

This family owned business has also given back to the community in many ways over the years. They are most proud of their participation in Design for a Difference, a program sponsored by the International Design Guild. This program is a community-driven design movement that brings showrooms together with interior designers and other businesses to makeover spaces at local charities and non-profits. So far, Select Surfaces and their partners in Design for a Difference have helped SOS Outreach, the Bright Future Foundation, The Red Ribbon Project, and Mountain Developmental Services re-design all or some aspect of their spaces.

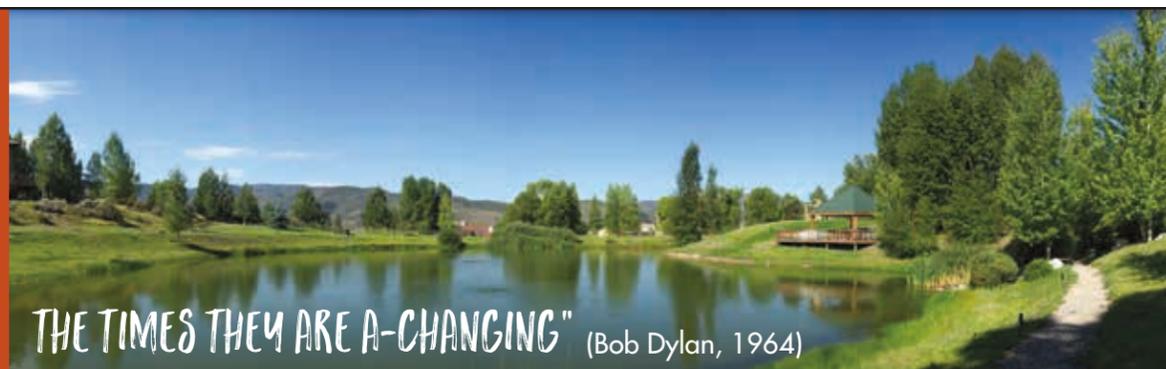
Select Surfaces loves to compete! They have also supported community fundraisers by fielding teams each year for the Swift Eagle Bocce Ball Tournament and the Literacy Project's Spelling Bee. And they are proud to say they have taken home the top honors in each of these at least once!

The Select Surfaces showroom not only offers a large variety of selection in carpet, tile, flooring and blinds, but they also offer



on-staff designers that can help you select the right product for your home at the right price. There is everything from high end wool carpet to affordable LVT. People love the design expertise they receive as well as the outstanding service and installation. With all that Select Surfaces has to offer, they are truly the “One Stop Shop” for all your remodeling selections.

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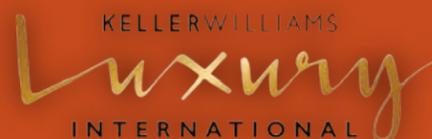
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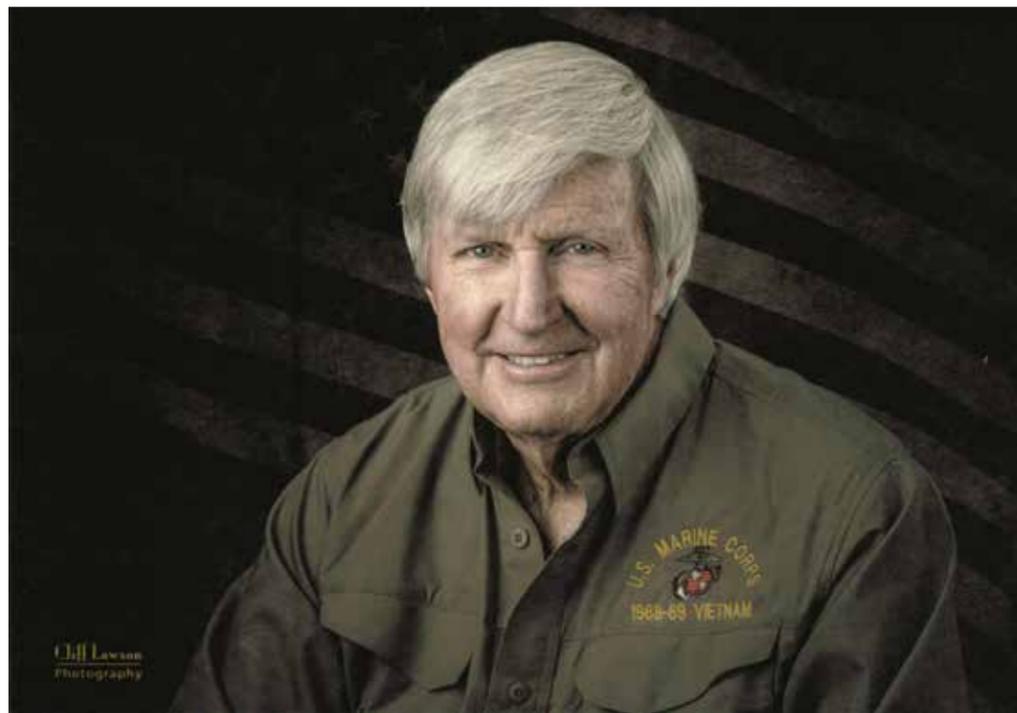
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CAPTAIN BILL WELCH



Like many things in life, successfully conducting a war depends on successful communications. While the war in Vietnam was anything but successful, the communication among our forces was pretty damn good. One of the men responsible for those communications in Vietnam was Singletree resident Bill Welch.

Bill grew up in Scarsdale, NY, and went to Scarsdale High School, where his passion was running cross country and track. He then went on to Notre Dame where he continued to run cross country and track while he majored in philosophy and minored in theology. Following his graduation from Notre Dame in June of 1965, Bill spent the summer volunteering with Maryknoll missionaries in Peru. In the fall of 1965, he entered the Maryknoll Seminary, but soon decided that the priesthood was not for him and he started Fordham Law School in the fall of 1966. His problem was that because he changed his course of graduate study from theology to law, he lost his student deferment and was now IA (eligible to be drafted).

Knowing that he was about to be drafted, he did what many red-blooded American boys wanted to do; he joined the Marines in the summer of 1967. He completed what the Marines refer to as their PLC/OCS course, which is required to become an officer in the Marines and perhaps a gentleman as well. In the fall of 1967, Bill started the six-month Basic Course required for newly minted Marine Officers. This was followed by Communications School, which he completed in July of 1968. After spending a year of training in Quantico, VA, he was now ready to be shipped to Vietnam, and so he was.

Marines were usually assigned to some of the hotter combat areas of Vietnam and, in August of 1968, Bill arrived in Da Nang, Vietnam. Da Nang was commonly known as “Rocket City” because of the propensity of the Viet Cong and NVA to bombard it with rockets on a regular basis. Sirens frequently

came on warning of an “incoming” rocket attack and the need to seek shelter in a bunker. Bill spent the next six months working at the War Room/Communications Center at the Marine I Corp headquarters. I Corp was the region of Vietnam from Da Nang north to the DMZ where Marines were assigned during Bill’s tour of duty. He worked 12-hour shifts handling routine communications, such as daily search and destroy missions to ensure, among other things, that everyone in I Corp knew what everyone else in I Corp was doing; in other words, making sure that the Air Force was not bombing American troops and that different units of American troops were not accidentally firing on each other.

He also handled highly classified messages; for example, dealing with large scale military strategies and operations, in the Encryption Vault where he used encryption machines to encode and decode messages. One highly classified encrypted message stands out in Bill’s memory. It was a message for General Cushman, the commanding general of I Corp, who was about to rotate home. Bill deciphered it and personally delivered it to General Cushman. General Cushman read it and instructed Bill that the contents were to remain strictly confidential between them. The encrypted message was from General Cushman’s wife informing him that she couldn’t

us marine corps, iii maf, vietnam war

find the medals for his dress uniform that he was to wear to President Nixon’s inauguration. Most encrypted messages, however, dealt with more critical strategic matters.

Bill’s second six months in Vietnam were spent on China Beach, across the Han River from Da Nang, at his Battalion Headquarters. His mission was to support the communication needs of Marines operating in I Corp. This support involved providing communication equipment mounted on trucks or trailers and personnel to operate them for military operations throughout I Corp. An interesting part-time job that Bill also had during this period was to check for C-4 (plastic explosives) on the pillars supporting the bridge between Da Nang and China Beach. Bill was chosen for this job because he was a strong swimmer. He would don scuba gear and dive into the muddy waters of the Han River to check whether C-4 had been attached to any of the pillars. Luckily, he never found anything.

Bill’s closest call from combat during his tour was when electronic communications were down, and he had to personally deliver paper messages across the bridge to the Da Nang Air Base. During that jeep ride, a bullet passed so close to his left ear that he could hear it whiz by. Fortunately, it also missed the driver in the front seat. Bill, however, did not survive his tour of duty without injury. He broke his nose three times. One was from diving into a bunker to avoid incoming rockets, but once was from a runaway surfboard, being used by a young Marine from Florida, while Bill was swimming off China Beach.



During his tour of duty, two other incidents stand out in Bill’s memory. Once on an operation, he removed his wet boots to dry them and his feet before retiring for the night, which was a common practice for troops in Vietnam. Bill, however, fell asleep only to wake to his feet “burning” in pain. Upon a closer examination his feet were covered in red ants. It was several days before the swelling went down and he could put his boots on again. The other incident was one of fatigue. Those who have not been to war probably don’t realize how fatigue can overcome anyone. Bill, at one time, after having very little sleep for a week,

singletree tribute

Contributed by **Bill Welch**,
Singletree Resident
Article Written by **Jim Ruh**,
Singletree Resident



•••

was asked to sign a form and he was so fatigued that he couldn't remember his name. Fortunately, his uniform had a name tag and he was able to look at it to recall who he was.

At the end of his tour of duty, Bill returned home and, in July of 1970, he was discharged from the Marines. He returned to Fordham Law School that fall. After graduating from law school, Bill moved to Denver and spent his legal career there as a Trust Officer at several banks where he arguably had a more difficult job than in the Marines, that of communicating with clients as to trusts and estates law and the tax code.

Bill met his wife, Connie, at a softball game in Crestmoor Park in Denver in 1975. They were married in 1979. Connie spent her career of 43 years as a flight attendant for United Airlines. Bill and Connie have two children, Lindsey and Brian, both of whom attended college on lacrosse scholarships, Lindsey at Virginia Tech and Brian at Butler. Bill and Connie have two grandchildren, Parker, age 8, and Payton, age 5, by way of Lindsey who now lives in Virginia and two granddaughters, Laina, age 3, and Dylan, 4 months old, by way of Brian who lives in Eagle and is the Director of Lacrosse for the Vail Valley Lacrosse Club.

Bill and Connie acquired a part-time home in Singletree in 2013 and in 2017 sold their Englewood home to live here full time. Bill is a ski instructor at Beaver Creek where he teaches kids and is also

active in various veteran programs. One of Connie's favorite activities is volunteering at the Mountain Valley Horse Rescue Ranch near McCoy. Bill and Connie, in addition to being avid skiers, are equally avid about dancing. You will probably see them at the Community Center when free dance lessons return.

Agent Orange is a lingering nightmare for those who spent time in the boonies of Vietnam. In December of 2017, Bill received a call from his closest friend during and after Vietnam with the terrible news of his lung and prostate cancer and his plea to Bill to get tested for its effects. Bill did and came up clean!

Remember, being a good neighbor is also about communications, so if you don't already know Bill and Connie, reach out to communicate with them. You no longer have to talk to Bill over a radio. Ten-four and out.

DURING THAT JEEP RIDE, A BULLET PASSED SO CLOSE TO HIS LEFT EAR THAT HE COULD HEAR IT WHIZ BY. FORTUNATELY, IT ALSO MISSED THE DRIVER IN THE FRONT SEAT

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Contributed by Bill Cotton and
Claus Tjaden, Singletree Residents
Article Written by Tim Swift,
Singletree Resident

SOS
OUTREACH

**Changing Young Lives, Building
Character and Leadership in
Underserved Kids**



Our Singletree neighborhood is a wonderful place to live, filled with generous people selflessly supporting our valley's many nonprofits. This spirit of giving back can be found on every street and cul de sac, in the gym at the Sonnenalp Club, hiking our trails with fido, or enjoying a relaxed dinner at Harvest. Claus Tjaden and Bill Cotton are just two of the many nonprofit board members and supporters who call Singletree home.

Claus and Bill are both involved with SOS Outreach, an organization whose mission it is to “change young lives, building character and leadership in underserved kids through mentoring...” using a proven curriculum that combines the support of committed adults, outdoor opportunities, service, and leadership development needed to become caring and contributing adults. SOS Outreach programs empower youths to discover their true potential. Founded 26 years ago by Arn Menconi, a former Vail snowboard instructor and Eagle County Commissioner, the organization grew from a modest beginning with a mere 15 Denver area kids that, over time, grew into what it is today. SOS Outreach currently operates in 15 locations across nine states covering 22 mountains, and has served over 70,000 kids including 1200 Eagle County kids each year!

Claus joined the board of directors at about the same time as Seth Ehrlich was named executive director, and he served as board chair from 2014 until leaving the board in 2019. A trained sociologist, he brought his considerable skills in program evaluation to the organization which truly helped to energize it. When Claus arrived, he saw that while SOS Outreach was accomplishing many good things, their messaging occasionally missed the mark.

It failed to point out the real successes SOS Outreach was able to accomplish through its mentoring programs, both adult and peer.

He began working with local agencies to identify the kids who they could help. He worked with the juvenile justice system as well as Eagle County Schools and other community service agencies such as Mountain Youth (formerly the Eagle County Youth Coalition), and developed a data reporting system for SOS Outreach to better identify underserved communities, ethnic groups, as well as diverse income strata. Using hard data to support recruitment, Claus was able to extend the reach and scope of SOS Outreach to greatly expand its client base ensuring those with the greatest need could take advantage on the SOS Outreach mentor-based programs.

Claus took a close look at outcomes of the program and began to accurately measure those outcomes. He found that the participants became more self-reliant and had a greater sense of belonging through increased social connections. In addition, participants were shown to be making better choices. The data Claus developed clearly contributed to an improved community image of SOS Outreach and helped the organization grow to where it is today. SOS Outreach now serves boys and girls from 4th grade through high school and truly gives underserved kids a better chance.

Another Singletree stalwart, Bill Cotton, the owner and CEO of Optic Nerve Eyewear, currently serves on the board of SOS Outreach although he has been a supporter of theirs for 15 years. Optic Nerve has been supplying goggles free of charge to



the kids in the program, so it was a natural progression for Bill to eventually find his way onto their board. Today he is totally committed to their goals and their programs and all they have accomplished. He is especially proud of the role the older kids play in the success of SOS Outreach, particularly the peer-to-peer mentoring program.

In addition to adult mentors, the older high school age kids actively mentor the younger participants by providing invaluable “been there, done that” motivation. Bill proudly pointed out that they recently added their first alumni to the board, Alfredo Velasco. After Alfredo graduated from high school he went on to college and recently completed a Masters degree program at Duke University. He cited Alfredo as a shining example of a disadvantaged kid who confronted his fears, changed his life, and joined the “circle of love” that SOS Outreach offers.

Bill also praised our valley in general and Singletree in particular for the amazing efforts we make to help those less fortunate. He was quick to say that the “valley needs us now more than ever. If we can help, we gotta help”.

Both Claus and Bill heaped high praise on the tremendous financial support SOS Outreach receives both locally and nationally. Vail Resorts CEO Rob Katz and his wife, Elena Amsterdam, support the organization financially through their family foundation, as does Vail Resorts through their Epic Promise program. In addition to Vail Resorts, their national partners include Smartwool, The North Face, Spyder, evo, the National Recreation Foundation, The Colorado Health Foundation, the Share Winter



Foundation, and the Anschutz Foundation as well as countless local donors.

Due to the tireless efforts of Singletree residents like Claus Tjaden and Bill Cotton, SOS Outreach's future is indeed a bright one. It's also important to note that while SOS Outreach does charge a modest fee for its program, they also have vigorous and generous scholarship effort in place. So much so that no one has ever been denied participation due to financial hardship. If you would like to get involved, please visit their website as www.sosoutreach.org or give them a call at **970-926-9292**.



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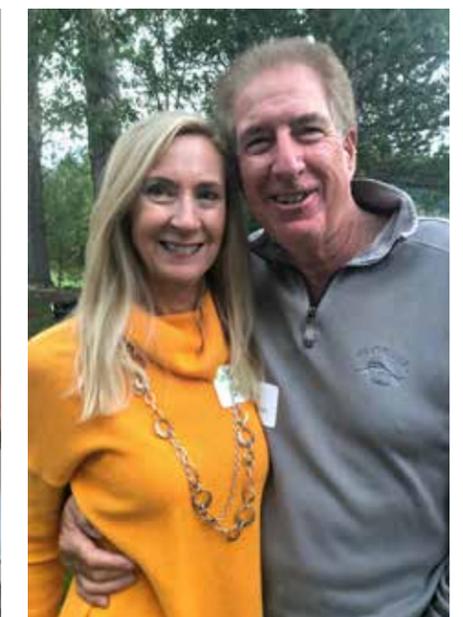
singletree social

SLIDE INTO **FALL!**



Hostess and Host: Ingrid and Craig Dampier

Craig and Ingrid Dampier hosted their 3rd Annual Slide Into Fall soiree for Singletree friends and neighbors to celebrate summer and the arrival of fall. Our guests were happy to be out socializing with old friends and new acquaintances after many months of time at home. A refreshing Aperol Spritzer aperitif was served followed by an array of appetizers and freshly grilled sliders. Thank you, Ingrid and Craig, for your warm hospitality and a festive evening of neighborhood camaraderie!



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singletree tribute Contributed by Mike Kavanaugh, Singletree Resident

Commander Mike Kavanaugh

MSC, USN (RETIRED), AEROMEDICAL SAFETY OFFICER. GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.

Growing up the son of an Air Force vet, military service always had an appeal. When one sees our beautiful America flag and hears “our” national anthem, the hair on the back of my neck bristles, and I always get goosebumps on my arms. Always have... always will. It is my honor to stand before our flag and defend our country’s freedoms to include free speech.

During graduate school, Lieutenant Commander Mike “Mac” Wilkenson crossed my path. He was an Aeromedical Safety Officer studying Night Vision, with applications towards Night Vision Goggles utilized in Naval Aviation. After graduate school in Exercise Physiology and a few years spent living in the Vail Valley, an opportunity to take a commission in the United States Navy was offered. This opportunity was surely made more visual with the appreciated nagging by Captain Jim Horan, US Navy pilot and Delta Airlines Captain. Folks, “sometimes things that happen to us are too convenient to be coincidental.” To believe in divine intervention, having these two gracious and intelligent men come across my path was no coincidence.

After spending 3 months in the Officers Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island, coursework in Aviation Physiology and Flight Training was on the agenda from August 1996 through April 1997.

The famous Naval Aviation Medicine Institute (NAMI) was quite inspirational and an honor to attend. Many rather famous flight surgeons have attended this school and gone on to careers in naval aviation medicine, as well as NASA. Flight school followed with training in the T34C Turbo Mentor.

As a note of affection towards “Brown Shoes”, all of us who were aviation wore brown shoes as part of the Naval Aviation Khaki Uniform. All who are active duty aviation crew are afforded a call sign. Albeit, we all love the movie *Top Gun*, call signs were always what you would call your high school or college buddies. Yes, “Maverick” and “Goose” were good fun, but the tradition in naval aviation is that someone else always picks your call sign. It’s always stupid, funny and perhaps a little degrading or more aptly put, humbling. “Puffy”, “Squeeky”, “Meat”, “Lip” and “Chunky” were a few call signs of my friends. The call signs were designed to humble you, but also were a rite of passage and being part of a tremendous aviation family/team. My call sign? Maybe you guessed it: “Chunky”. Sorry. “Top Secret” origins of this name. Note of sarcasm. I have never weighed more than 164 lbs...

A first tour was performed at Naval Air Station, Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida. This was at the time an F/A-18 base. A 2 year internship was undertaken

in Aeromedical Safety, which was followed by a 6 week course in Aviation Safety and Crash Investigation at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, in Monterey, California. This was an amazing course studying, with humility, mishaps including the 1986 Space Shuttle mishap. Brave pioneers in aviation blazed the way for us to learn and become safer and more efficient. This teaching job at Cecil Field entailed running and directing Altitude Chamber training, Night Vision Goggle instruction, Ejection Seat instruction and the list goes to include Water Survival training with highlights given to the Helicopter Dunker as seen now in many videos on *YouTube*. A pilot favorite, sarcasm noted. Please watch the *YouTube* videos and you will understand.

A follow-on tour was then at Naval Air Station, Lemoore in Lemoore, California, again similar training however this unit had the Navy’s Centrifuge-based Flight Environment Trainer (C-FET). It was a 55 ton above-ground high G-force aeromedical training device. Powered by a General Electric motor utilizing thousands of Amps during acceleration, it could accelerate up to 6 G-forces in one second. Its peak G’s were 15 G forces at



which time it spun at 90 mph in a 30 foot circle. This still gives me thrills to have been part of this training. Of all the courses I had the honor to teach, this one gets the Gold Medal. Imagine an exciting course to teach and then throw in extreme athletics! Quite amazing. A yearly honor also was to train the world-famous U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

Naval Air Station, Point Mugu in Ventura County, California, was the next tour. Perhaps now as Lieutenant Commander, looking forward 20 years as a career was more than a thought. An exciting job teaching Naval Air Crew many subjects, including Downed Aviator Survivor Radio training, Emergency Parachute and Ejection Seat Systems, was fun. Some time was spent at sea on cruise aboard the USS Nimitz and USS Stennis Aircraft Carrier training many subjects to aircrew. Flight time as a requirement was of course a career high point in F/A-18s, C-2 CODS, Seahawk helicopters and E2C Hawkeyes off aircraft carriers at sea - full steam. This time was spent all over the Pacific Ocean.

Four tours then followed with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Okinawa, Japan, back to NAS Lemoore, the United Kingdom with the Royal Air Force, and then finally PMA-205, NAVAIR, Patuxent River, Maryland. Love... the British. What wonderfully humble people to include my then British wife, Paula. She passed away, 23 Dec 2010 near her family in England. Such a lovely elegant lady. Queen’s accent and all. An amazing opportunity to fly over 1000 hours in 22 different military aircraft and jump out of perfectly good aircraft ten times, huh? (parachuting, LOL). And... a retirement as a Navy Commander. Yes, there is hope for dumb guys like me to do well in certain aspirations. Surely, chalk up the rank earned to just good old-fashioned hard work and dedication.

What can a man say with less intellect than many? What a wonderful opportunity... A coincidence? No. God watches us all. I do





sincerely appreciate what is happening in America at this very time. I do have much love for all our citizens, all... But I will say that I must always stand for the anthem and the flag. Are there lessons we can learn in America,



surely to love some citizens more than we should have in the past? Surely, I do know that my brothers and sisters in arms



I must stand for old glory and our national anthem, always. If needed, I would still give my life to afford life, love and liberty to all...

would give their lives if need be for those less fortunate and down-trodden. And they have... We are all ears listening to all our citizens and humbly appreciating their desires and needs. We can all learn each day and love more. Just please understand and appreciate that I must... I must stand for old glory and our national anthem, always. If needed, I would still give my life to afford life, love and liberty to all... American Citizens and even persecuted souls abroad as honored by our God.



Moses Gonzales, Peggy Nicholls, Steve Simonett and Jerry Dooher



Dan Osborn, Brian Welch, Blaik Shew, Bill Welch and John Krueger

9/11 2020

"NEVER FORGET"

MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

This September 11 marked the 3rd Annual 9/11 "Never Forget" Memorial Golf Tournament. First formed after the Minturn Rummage sale ended, the golf tournament is the primary fund raiser for the Minturn Mt. Holy Cross VFW Post 10721 that supports college scholarships for six local high school and college students.

In May 2020, \$23,000 was awarded in scholarship monies. High school seniors can apply through their school counselors with an email application package delivered to Debbie Robbins at debrobs@gmail.com before April 15th of their senior year.

This year's 1st Place Mixed Team included Singletree residents Peggy Nicholls and Jerry Dooher with Moses Gonzales and Steve Simonett rounding out the foursome. Singletree residents Blaik Shew and Bill Welch joined Brian Welch, Dan Osborn and John Krueger to participate in the 2020 tournament fundraiser.

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