



NMACD MEMORIAL 2023

Mary Abercrombie

Grant SWCD

November 27, 1928 – December 21, 2022



Mary was raised at White Signal, NM, on the Prevost family ranch which was homesteaded in the late 1800's. She graduated from Silver City High School in 1946 while continuing to help with the ranch due to World War II. She attended New Mexico Teachers College for one year and later attended New Mexico A&M which is now New Mexico State University. While attending NMSU, Mary met her future husband, Robert "Bob" Abercrombie, a World War II veteran and captain of the football team. They were married on Aug. 22, 1948.

Mary was an amazing seamstress and won a state 4-H sewing competition. She was an active member of 4-H and was a Rainbow girl while in high school. She was a true Proverbs 31 woman who loved Jesus and was an active Baptist Church member. She served as a Girl Scout leader, 4-H leader and Rainbow mom. Mary was also known for creating beautiful wedding cakes.

Her husband Bob worked for the Soil Conservation Service in Grant County where they both lived for the rest of their lives. They were married for 46 years until Bob's death. Her greatest love was her family, and she was blessed with five daughters, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

George D. Hay

Roosevelt swcd

(January 24, 1927 - June 7, 2023) – 96 years old

George Karl Hay was born in Roswell, NM and spent his life on the ranch land that his family has owned for 107 years. He worked the ranch for 96 years raising and branding cattle. George met his soulmate, Fern, in May 1942 and married her on December 4, 1954, after serving in the U.S. Army from August 1945 to January 1947. George was a Freemason and a lifelong participant with Roosevelt Soil and Water Conservation District.

He was a humble man who worked hard, loved his family, enjoyed dancing, and treasured his days on the ranch. George was preceded in death by his loving wife, Fern, and his son, Worth. He is survived by a daughter, Jeanette, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.



Florida Martinez

Taos SWCD

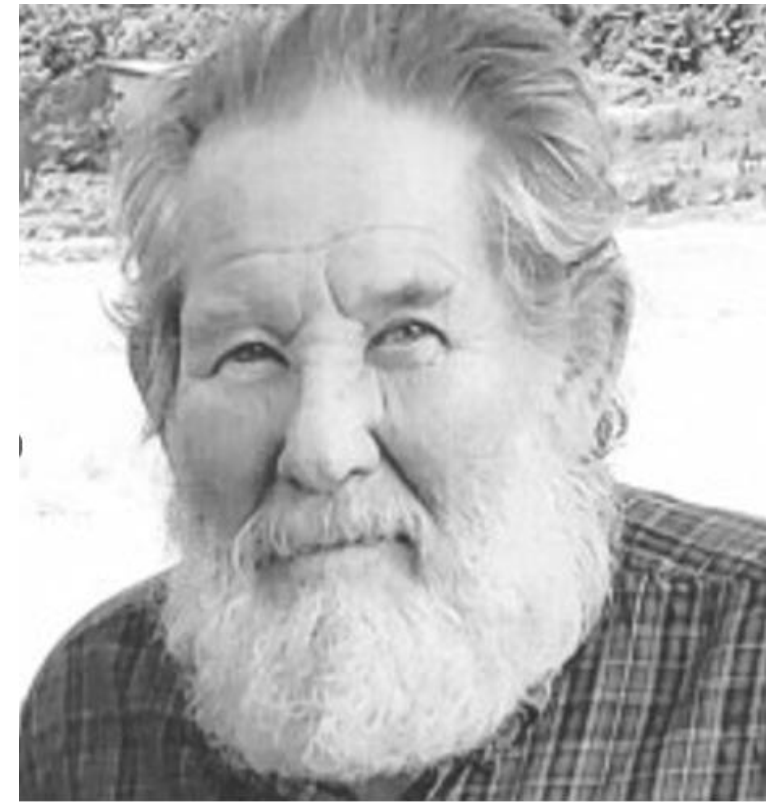


Florida Martinez was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved her land by utilizing the District's cost-share program to install water control structures. She was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. She will be deeply missed.

Jim Armstrong

Taos SWCD

Jim Armstrong was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program for range improvement projects. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.





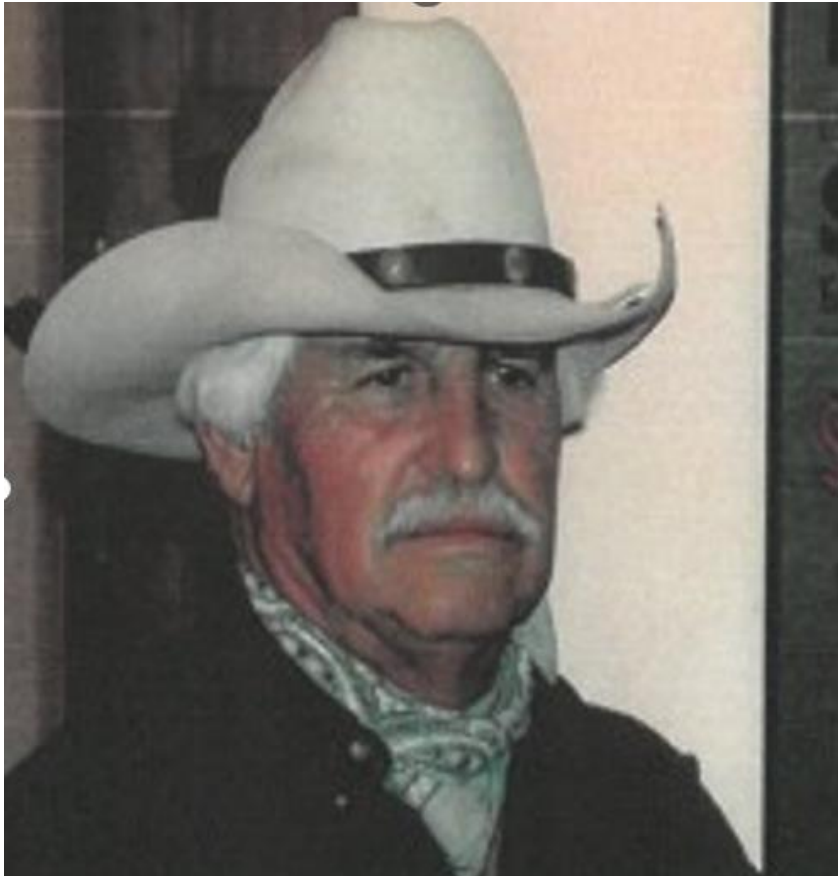
George Maestas

Taos SWCD

George Maestas was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program to install water control structures. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.

Juby Espinoza

Taos SWCD



Juby Espinoza was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program to install water control structures. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.

Leroy Naranjo

Taos SWCD



Leroy Naranjo was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program to install water control structures. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.

Bolvidar Quintana

Taos SWCD

Bolvidar Quintana was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program for forest health projects. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.



Milton Cisneros

Taos SWCD



Milton Cisneros was a district cooperater with the Taos Soil & Water Conservation District who improved his land by utilizing the District's cost-share program to install water control structures. He was not merely a cooperater but was a good friend that treated you like family. He will be deeply missed.

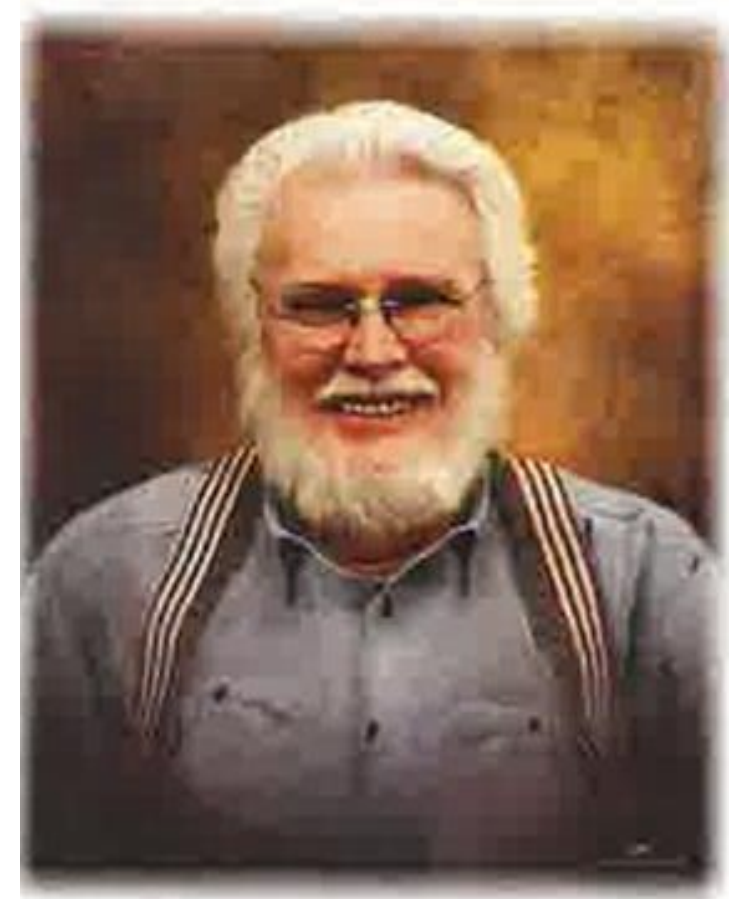
Larry Lynn Waggoner

Chaves SWCD

December 24, 1942 - August 31, 2023

Larry Lynn Waggoner was born in Roswell, NM on Christmas Eve, 1942. He was full of fun, loved farming, and friendships and always had a joke to tell. Larry was a member of the National Guard and talked fondly about his time in service. He was married to his loving and devoted wife, Katherine, from 1963 until her passing in 2017 and is survived by his brother, Terry and family, a sister, Tamara and family, and by his son, Timmy Taylor and family.

Larry was considered a staple in the agriculture community who helped create dreams for fellow farmers and was always willing to give great advice. But his greatest love was farming, from the planting to the harvest. The saying that “a farmer clocks in at age 5 and never really clocks out” was absolutely true about Larry. He was never without his snow-white hair and beard, bright red Chevy truck, and his American flag suspenders. He is deeply missed.



Larry Hobson

Chaves SWCD

June 9, 1947 - September 11, 2023



Larry Glen Hobson was born in Roswell, NM on June 9, 1947 and grew up on the family farm where he discovered a love of the land. He loved the challenges of farming whether it was hay, corn, cotton, or the beautiful red and green chile, or the amazing fruit and vegetables that he and his brothers grew for the infamous Hobson Gardens started by his mom in the 50's.

Along with farming, Larry's family meant the world to him. The love of his life, Judy was his greatest support and cheerleader. Larry and Judy had the most amazing and beautiful relationship that gave everyone inspiration and something to strive towards in our own relationships. They loved the Chaves County 4-H, the FFA, and the Eastern NM State Fair. Larry's passion was helping and supporting the youth of the community and state. It was said that his motto was "Its always been about the kids," and his greatest asset in life was his son, Clinton.

Larry received many accolades among which were the 2022 Grand Marshal of the Eastern NM State Fair, 2021 Citizen of the Year for Roswell, 2017 Outstanding Caring Citizen of the Year, 2006 Heritage Family of the Year, and Honorary American Farmer Degree.

Larry Hobson left behind his true love, Judy; son, Clinton and family; daughters, Jami Bernacchi and Mikey (Cody) McGuire; and brothers, Jerry (Vick) Hobson, Harold Hobson, numerous grandchildren, three great grands, and several nephews and nieces. Larry Hobson truly had a great and full life.

Monte Lee Howard

January 29, 1955 - August 13, 2023

Border SWCD

Monte Howard was born in Portales, New Mexico and grew up at South Camp on the Lewis Cooper Ranch. He graduated from Elida High School in 1973 and played basketball and baseball while working for a branding crew. During this time, he harvested and sold “Mountain Oysters” to local restaurants. Monte spent his life in agriculture having worked for various farms and ranches including his father-in-law in Rogers, NM before becoming Farm Manager for the New Mexico Baptist Children’s Home in 2006.

Monte married Teresa Thetford on April 9, 1977, and they had two children, son, Jason who died in 2003 and daughter, Meghen. He was a member of the Dora Baptist Church, was an avid arrowhead hunter and was extremely proud of his arrowhead collection. Monte is survived by his daughter, Meghen Howard, two Brothers, Dan and family, Kim and family, a Sister, Ann and family, and his former wife, Teresa Howard.



Buddy Cortese

DeBaca SWCD

September 22, 1946 - September 14, 2023



Buddy graduated from New Mexico State University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ag Economics. Upon graduation, he began his professional career as a loan officer at Production Credit Association in Roswell, NM. He was appointed to the vice-president position before he decided to return home to the family farming and ranching business.

During his involvement in agriculture, he was appointed to the board of directors for Production Credit Association in Clovis, NM in 1987. He served nine years, four of which were in the Chairman position. He later was elected to the district board of directors of Farm Credit Bank of Texas located in Austin, Texas. He served in this position from 1995 to 2022, including 12 years as board chairman. Buddy's financial expertise in the agricultural lending field also led to his election to the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (Farmer Mac) Board in Washington, DC, where he served from 2003 to 2008. In 2012 he was elected to the Federal Farm Credit Banks' Funding Corporation located in Jersey City, New Jersey. Buddy currently served as Chairman of the Corporation's Governance Committee.

In 2023 he was inducted into the Farm Credit Bank of Texas prestigious Academy of Honor. This designation afforded him the opportunity to give a scholarship to the University of his choice. Buddy's choice was his Alma Mater, NMSU, and the recipient to be an agricultural economic student. He recently was named the NMSU Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Business Outstanding Alumni.

C.W. Grissom

DeBaca SWCD

July 3, 1929 - August 3, 2023

CW and Janean moved to Taiban in 1956 where they started their family and fulfilled their dreams of becoming ranchers. CW was a true cowboy, and he was not afraid to wear his pink high-top boots and his Silverbelly cowboy hat to any highfalutin function! Raising and racing horses was one of his true passions.



Janean Grissom DeBaca SWCD

May 8, 1933 - January 18, 2023

Janean spent her time cooking, helping on the ranch, refurbishing furniture, painting; she even remodeled the barn! She never had idle hands--she was always working! Her cooking was out of this world! If you hadn't had Janean's biscuits and gravy, you missed out!

After her kids graduated high-school, she went to work as District Court Clerk for De Baca County for 32 years (1977-2009). Janean was a charter member of Powderhorn Cowbells. As Co-founder of Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, she was interviewed by Sam Donaldson for Smithsonian. She served on the Mental Health Resources Board of Directors from 1977-1980. She was also an active member in the Taiban Ladies Club and refurbished the old Taiban Church.



Denzel Finney

DeBaca SWCD

January 23, 1938 - May 6, 2023



Denzel Ray Finney, 85, was a longtime Fort Sumner valley farmer and Muleshoe, Texas, dairyman. Starting in the early 80's, Denzel and Annie owned and operated De Baca Supply Company and Finney Farms. In 2004 the family began operation of the Track Dairy in Muleshoe, Texas. Denzel was a member of Dairy Farmers of America. According to Denzel's family, he never retired, his favorite pastime was driving by the farm fields watching his crops grow.

