

Montana Trooper

Final Patrol Colonel Robert James 'Griff' Griffith

May 24, 1929 - Jan. 17, 2010

Griff was born in Butte. He grew up hearing the whistles that sounded the shift changes in the mines. He graduated from Butte High School in 1947. As a youth he worked at Safeway as a box boy and sweeper. He also held a union card as a meat cutter.

In 1954 Griff was accepted as a recruit by the Montana Highway Patrol. He spent 40 years with the organization and retired in 1994 as colonel, chief of the Montana Highway Patrol.

While posted in Billings he met Isabel Barbara Iams. They were married April 6, 1968, and spent the first year of their married life living in Chicago while Griff attended Northwestern University on a grant.

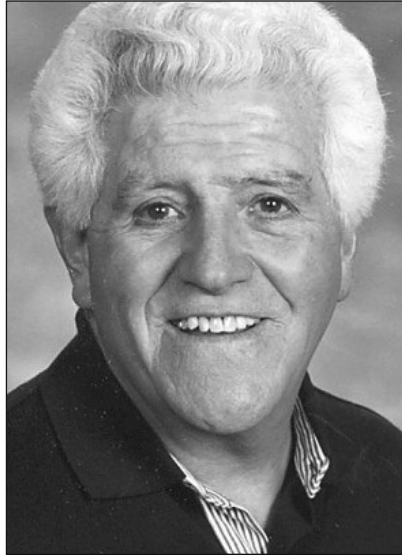
He was posted to Helena in 1969 where he remained for the rest of his career. Their only child, Patrick Michael, was born Jan. 3, 1970.

Griff was appointed to a seat on the Montana Public Employees Retirement Board by Governor Marc Racicot. He was reappointed to a second term. He then withdrew his name from consideration saying he was too old to serve.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Margaret Car-

ney Griffith and Weston Griffith; his brothers, Eugene and William; and a nephew, Billy.

Griff is survived by his wife, Barbara; son, Patrick Michael (Donna and Kenny); and numerous nieces and nephews.



Griff met his old MHP buddies yearly in Vegas for a spirited golf tourney. He also enjoyed bowling, sports of all kinds, and taking what we called a "mini-vacation." This consisted of picking a Montana town, enjoying the drive over, investigating the country surrounding the town, staying overnight and visiting its local pubs and eateries.

Robert was a loving father, a good provider, and a wonderful companion. Patrick and Barbara shall miss him terribly.

Cremation has taken place. He was adamant that no services of any kind be held.

Barbara and Patrick would like to thank all of his old friends who made life so pleasurable for him. Thank you to Dr. Weiner and his wonderful, cheerful staff at St. Peter's Cancer Center for giving such compassionate care. Remember him kindly and if you wish, contribute to his favorite charity, Helena Food Share. □