

Montana Trooper

Final Patrol



FORMER MONTANA ATTORNEY GENERAL JOE MAZUREK

by Mike Dennison, IR State Bureau

Former Montana Attorney General Joe Mazurek, known by friends and adversaries alike as a dedicated public servant who could find compromise when others couldn't, died in Helena on August 28, 2012, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He was 64.

Mazurek, a Democrat who also ran for governor and served 12 years as a state senator from Helena, had been diagnosed with the disease in 2007. His family went public about his condition last year, in a news story distributed by the McLaughlin Research Institute in Great Falls, whose scientists are researching Alzheimer's.

Mazurek was Montana's attorney general from 1993-2000, winning election to a second term in 1996. He ran for governor in 2000 but lost in the Democratic primary to then state-Audi-

tor Mark O'Keefe. After his electoral defeat in 2000, Mazurek joined the law firm of Crowley and Fleck in Helena.

Mazurek had a long career in politics, beginning as student-body president at the University of Montana in the 1960s. He earned a bachelor's degree from UM in 1970, served two years in the Army, and then returned to UM for law school. He worked as a private attorney in Helena, won election to the Legislature in 1980, and served three terms as a state senator. He was president of the Montana Senate during the 1991 Legislature.

He successfully ran for attorney general in 1992, defeating Republican Jack Sands of Billings.

Former state Sen. Bob Brown of Whitefish, who first met Mazurek when Brown was student-body president at Montana State University and Mazurek was the same at UM, said Mazurek was a classic "bridge-builder" at the Legislature who often brought disparate sides together in compromise, because they trusted him completely.

"He was as honorable as anyone I've ever known, and always in a low-key way," Brown said. "He was the person who quietly, behind the scenes, helped bring people together and made the system work."

Dennis Taylor, who was Mazurek's chief of staff at the state Justice Department, also said Mazurek had an encyclopedic knowledge of the content of bills before the Legislature and seemed to know everyone in Helena, as well as many more people around the state. He said those skills made it all the more difficult to watch Mazurek slowly lose his memory with Alzheimer's.

"The irony of the scourge of Alzheimer's is that when Joe was a legislator, he could tell you what was in every bill, section by section, and who

was for what, and who was against it, and how they were going to work their way through it," Taylor said. "I truly believe that he appealed to people from both sides of the aisle in an old-fashioned way that you don't see any more."

Mazurek was born in San Diego, Calif., and moved to Montana as an infant, growing up in Helena and graduating from Helena High School. He is survived by his wife Patty and three sons, Jeff, Tom and Dan.

JAMES JENSEN

The Patrol mourns the loss of retired Lt. James Jensen, who served with the Patrol from December 26, 1962, until his retirement on September 30, 1986. Jim died on July 25, 2012, at Kalispell Regional Hospital. A memorial service for Jim was held at 1100 hours on Wednesday, August 1, 2012, at the Bethany Lutheran Church (8559 MT Hwy 35) in Bigfork.

The family recognized all members of the Montana Highway Patrol, retired and active duty, as honorary pallbearers. All were welcome to take part in a luncheon provided by the Bethany women in the church basement following the service. A private family interment was held on Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

In lieu of flowers, Jim's family wishes memorials be made to the Montana Hope Project or the Bethany Lutheran Church. Johnson's Funeral Home in Kalispell assisted the family. Cards may be sent to Jim's family at P. O. Box 65, Bigfork, MT 59911.

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ROBERT LLOYD "BUD" PAYNE

Robert Lloyd "Bud" Payne of Stevensville, passed away Thursday, November 8, 2012, at his daughter's home in Missoula of natural causes.

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He was born on May 29, 1923, in Loup City, Nebraska, to George and Myrtle Barr. Orphaned at an early age, he and his brother, George Louis Barr, were adopted by their Aunt and Uncle, Elizabeth and G. Benjamin Payne, of Manhattan. As a young boy, he and his brother worked on various farms while attending school. He graduated from Manhattan High School in 1942.

He enlisted in the Army and served with the 103rd Infantry Division in Europe during World War II. He was wounded twice and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals.

After the war, he returned to Three Forks, where he met and married the love of his life, Julia June Carr, on December 24, 1946. They lived in Three Forks and Bozeman until he joined the Montana Highway Patrol in 1952. He was stationed in Circle, Roundup, Shelby, and Missoula where he retired in 1979 at the rank of lieutenant. He continued to work for the Driver's License Bureau for another 6 years. He was a certified instructor and trainer with the National Safety Council for 20 years.

He and his wife moved to Stevensville in 1990 where they built and maintained their home for many years. In retirement, Bud was active in the VFW, the American Legion, Military Order of Purple Heart, DAV, and

IIOF. He was a 50 year member of the Roundup Masonic Lodge, as well as a member of the Al Bedoo Shriners of Billings and the Scottish Rite of Missoula.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife June, his brother George Payne, grandson James Graves, granddaughter Lisa Glass, and great grandson Tanner Glass. He is survived by his daughters Sheryl (Gary) Graves of Roundup, Carol (Darrell) Anderson of Missoula, Jo Anne (Gary) Hettick of Missoula; his grandchildren Gwen Graves of Roundup, Larry Graves (Karla) of Topeka, KS, Thomas (Lynne) Hettick of Tracy, CA, Michelle (Cameron) Danzinger of Missoula; his great grandchildren Tyler and Andi Soennichsen, Samantha and Kathryn Graves, Brittany and Daniel Hettick, Brayden and Bryson Danzinger; his sister-in-law Betty Payne of Lansing, KS, along with three nephews and their families.

Cremation has taken place, and no services were held. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Pantry Partners Food Bank, P.O. Box 806, Stevensville, MT 59870 or a charity of their choice. □