



Edward J. Simonich

December 3, 1924 - November 25, 2020

Edward J Simonich, 90, passed away on November 25, 2020 from Covid 19, after a short stay at Life Care Center of Pueblo. Edward was born on December 3, 1929 to John and Catherine (Buscia) Simonich, coming from Croatian and Slavic roots. Preceded in death by his parents; and four sisters, Matilda (Tillie) Hostetler, Helen Prijatel, Mary Willis and Elsie Griffith. He is survived by nephews, Paul Prijatel, Rick (Laura) Prijatel, William Prijatel, Harlan (Judy) Willis; nieces: Colleen (Danny) Foster, Sandra (Mike) Oreskey, Karen Willis, Julie Spezze and Susanne (Jeff) Denwalt. Children: Mary Beth Simonich, Michael Simonich; and one grandson, Jason Simonich; several great nieces, nephews, his care giver, Anne Williams, and many Friends. Ed grew up in the Bessemer area attending school at Minnequa and St. Francis Parish. He Graduated from Pueblo Catholic High School in 1948. Following graduation, he in listed in the Navy as a radioman and was also a backup deep-sea diver. His tour of duty was in the South Pacific and in 1953 was Honorable Discharged. He went on to follow in his father's footsteps working at the CF&I. He did not enjoy his work and only lasted three months. So, with the encouragement of his friends, he joined the Pueblo Police Department, where he worked for 12 years. In the early days he was on foot patrol working the "Central Corridor" which included the toughest parts of town, including the Union Avenue District, Mesa Junction and the 200 and 300 blocks of Santa Fe Avenue. In 1966 he left the Police Department to work at the Pueblo Army Depot, working on missile systems until 1978. Around that time, he started to

devote his time to history and archaeology. He decided to get his certification in Avocation Archaeology and went on to work at the Kit Carson Home in Boggsville, the El Pueblo Trading post site and other archaeological digs. Besides literally digging into the past, Ed dug into the memories of the many people who were there, compiling over 350 oral histories that to this day is stored on tapes and is located at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library's Western Research Collection. Besides interviewing people, he wrote exclusively for the Pueblo Historical Society, was the past president of the Archaeology Society and has placed several of the historical downtown buildings on the National Registry of historical places. He had continued to do historical scrapbooks until he went into the nursing home in July. He loved his baseball (the Rockies) and Western films and TV. He was always happy to see you and had a wonder smile. In Lieu of flowers, please donate to the Pueblo Library or the Pueblo Historical Society. Because of Covid, there will not be any funeral services, Ed will be cremated and buried. A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Tribute Wall

CI

“ I had the great fortune of working with Ed in the early 90's alongside Dr. William G Buckles excavating at the El Pueblo site. I was in my early 20's and to spend days with him digging, hearing stories and on occasion go exploring southeast Colorado were some of my fondest memories!

Christopher Imhof - March 12, 2021 at 01:00 PM

SH

“ Loved this man for many years ♡ Full of great stories and memorable things. Thank goodness I got see him a few months back . God rest your soul Eddy +

Shari Manley Hajek - December 10, 2020 at 09:44 PM

DH

“ Ed was a good friend I learned alot about our history as well the native people. Enjoyed spending time with.him Rest in peace .Sorry for your loss.

david ernest haight - December 10, 2020 at 06:18 PM

VN

“ We knew Ed when we were square dancers in the late 60's until early 80's. He was a great dancer, fun to be around, and had the best smile. Rest easy, good friend.

Verla & Ron Noakes - December 09, 2020 at 11:18 PM

HJ

“ My dad Henry King senior was a good friend of Eddys they shared a desire to find treasure or at least the fun of looking for it dad always had a good time with Eddy when they went treasure hunting together. My deepest condolences to the Simonich family. Henry King junior

Henry King Jr - December 09, 2020 at 10:48 PM

KN

“ Hot summer days under the old furniture building at the El Pueblo site. Thank you for teaching a kid how to be a proper archaeologist. Peace keep you. Kathryn (Norton) Breitenfeldt



Kathryn Norton-Breitenfeldt - December 09, 2020 at 12:09 PM

TW

“ Tina Williams lit a candle in memory of Edward J. Simonich



Tina Williams - December 09, 2020 at 10:29 AM

TW

See you at 4th & Main at noon.

Tina Williams - December 09, 2020 at 10:31 AM



“ Go give everyone big hugs from all of us down here Uncle Eddie. I can still smell the good smell of your tobacco pipes today. You were always happy to see us when Grandma Mary and Aunt Helen would take us to visit. Always gave us kids a big bear hug with your pokey whiskers. I've passed that on and do it to my kids. Thanks for the memories. Until we meet again sir.

Brandon Billings - December 06, 2020 at 01:00 AM

PF

“ Peace be with you Uncle Ed

Prijatel Family - December 05, 2020 at 09:26 AM

DH

Rest In Peace Uncle Ed. The Hostetter family.

Donna Hostetter - December 05, 2020 at 10:29 AM

KW

Sadness in this world at this time is hard to avoid. Even more so when it's your family. May God take my Uncle Ed into his living care.

Karen Willis - December 05, 2020 at 06:29 PM

TH

I was Ed's Meals on Wheels driver for over 10 years until I had to stop in April because of Covid. He was always and will always be one of my favorites. He supplied me with some great old books to read on Colorado history. I got him a shadow box for his painted rocks (made by school kids for special holidays) He is one of the reasons I love doing Meals on Wheels. I will sure miss him when I return to it.

Thom Haney

Thomas Haney - December 09, 2020 at 09:49 AM

KE

Ed was who I went to for his wealth of knowledge on the area's history. He was always willing to help. His big smile and easy laugh will be missed by many. Kathleen Eriksen, ret.museum educator/curator.

Kathleen Eriksen - December 09, 2020 at 11:54 AM

CD

Loved this man. I spent so many years with him and my grandfather (Ed Butkovich) listening to cold crime cases in Pueblo, geneology, historical society meetings. He truly gave me some amazing advice in college. I miss his smile and scent of his pipe. Glad he will be reunited with his beautiful sisters and other family. Sending you all love and prayers Crystal(Butkovich)Diehl

Crystal Diehl - December 12, 2020 at 04:42 PM

JJ

Ed was a great friend. He took me under his wing as a young railroad researcher during 1991. I enjoyed many trips to Pueblo, from my Aurora home, to stay at Casa Simonich, do research, and return the favor by treating Ed to dinner at Furr's Cafeteria. I have never seen anyone pack away more fried chicken than Ed! Our friendship continued past the publication of my book and my move to Vermont. I last stayed at Casa Simonich in 2015. I miss those mornings waking up to the scent of brewing coffee and King Edward pipe smoke. I put a lot of mileage on his couch and will always cherish memories of Ed. I last spoke with him a year ago. His playful grin, constant teasing, and zest for life were contagious.

James R Jones - March 16, 2021 at 07:33 PM