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Former Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Bob Barbee passed away on Sunday, October 2, at home in Bozeman, MT with his wife of 58 years, Carol, by his side. He was 80 years old.

Barbee was born on November 12, 1935, in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Colorado State University(CSU) in 1958 with an undergraduate degree in Biology and returned to CSU earning a Masters in Natural Resources Management in 1968. He served a stint in the U.S. Army ROTC in Fort Benning, GA.

Barbee began his National Park Service career in 1958 with seasonal ranger positions in Rocky Mountain and Yosemite National parks. He then moved his young family to Carlsbad Caverns National Park, for his first permanent position as an interpretive ranger. In quick succession his National Park Service career took him to the Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park; Point Reyes National Park; back to Yosemite as a fire ecologist; and then on to the first of his superintendencies, at Cape Lookout National Seashore and Cape Hatteras National Seashore, followed by a stint at the Western Regional Office in San Francisco as Chief of the Division of Interpretation. There followed superintendencies at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Redwoods National Park, and Yellowstone National Park. After 11 eventful years in Yellowstone, Barbee became Regional Director of the

Alaskan parks, where he served until his retirement in 2000, capping a distinguished 42-year public service career.

Barbee was a passionate outdoorsman, an expert alpinist who summited all of Colorado's 14ers. He was also a marathon-level runner and a downhill and cross-country skier. A gifted photographer who studied and worked with Ansel Adams in Yosemite, he and his wife Carol visited all seven continents while he photographed the world's great natural and cultural areas.

Throughout Barbee's life and career he was devoted to his wife and three daughters. Together they shared adventures far and wide climbing mountains and hiking thousands of miles in America's national parks and other great breathtaking places.

The legions of National Park Service employees who knew and worked with Barbee remember him with great fondness, not only for his wise and effective leadership but also his unfailing friendship and brilliant sense of humor. In all ways he exemplified the highest standards of American citizenship, and like the National Park Service's founding Director, Steve Mather, there will never come an end to the good that he has done.

Barbee has been honored by his alma mater as a distinguished alumnus. He has been recognized with the Department of the Interior's three highest honor awards (Superior Service, Distinguished Service and Meritorious

Service) along with numerous other special awards including those from the White House and the National Parks and Conservation Association.

Barbee is survived by his wife, Carol Hill Barbee, daughters, Debbie Barbee (Mike Gerard) of Jackson, WY, Heidi Barbee, (Norbert Samlowski) of Steamboat Springs, CO, and Cindra Barbee (Mark Delray) of Kalispell, MT. Seven grandchildren, Madison and Chase Gerard, Tyler, Sam and Hannah Samlowski and Anna and Kade Delray and their beloved dog, Koko.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers donations be sent to Yellowstone Forever (formerly Yellowstone Park Foundation). At the request of the family the Yellowstone Forever organization is in the process of establishing a special project or scholarship fund in Bob's name.

Contributions can be mailed to: Yellowstone Forever, Barbee Memorial Project Fund, 222 E. Main Street, Bozeman, MT 59715. Yellowstone Forever is the primary partner organization of Yellowstone National Park and a 501 c 3 non-profit organization. [www.ypf.org](http://www.ypf.org)

Cards of condolence can be sent to the Barbee family at the following address: Debbie Barbee, P.O. Box 942, Wilson, WY 83014.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in May in Yellowstone National Park. The date of this event will be announced later. The family is setting up a website for friends to post memories of Bob. Once the website is available, the address will be relayed care of the National

Park Service and the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks.

Bob's cumulative achievements within the agency and in particular in Yellowstone are too numerous to recount. However he will always be remembered for his handling of the epic 1988 Yellowstone Fires and through the intensity of that long summer. He faced hordes of people, thousands of news media and an endless stream of politicians all wanting to dictate how he should be managing the fires and some calling for his removal.

With the hindsight of some 28 years now, it is clear Bob's leadership in managing the extreme fire situation in 1988 ultimately shaped the future of federal wildland fire management policy. Today many of the methods used in Yellowstone in 1988 are now mainstream tactics in managing large wildland fires for resource benefit, economics and most importantly for human safety.

Anyone fortunate enough to know Bob also knows his extraordinary partner and spouse Carol. Together they shared their lives in some of our nation's most iconic landscapes, raised three daughters and are the proud grandparents of seven grandkids. They have entertained presidents and kings as well as seasonal park employees who had no place to sleep for a night or two between jobs. Their hospitality is legend and many a national decision was made around their kitchen table or campfire with some of the nation's highest officials.