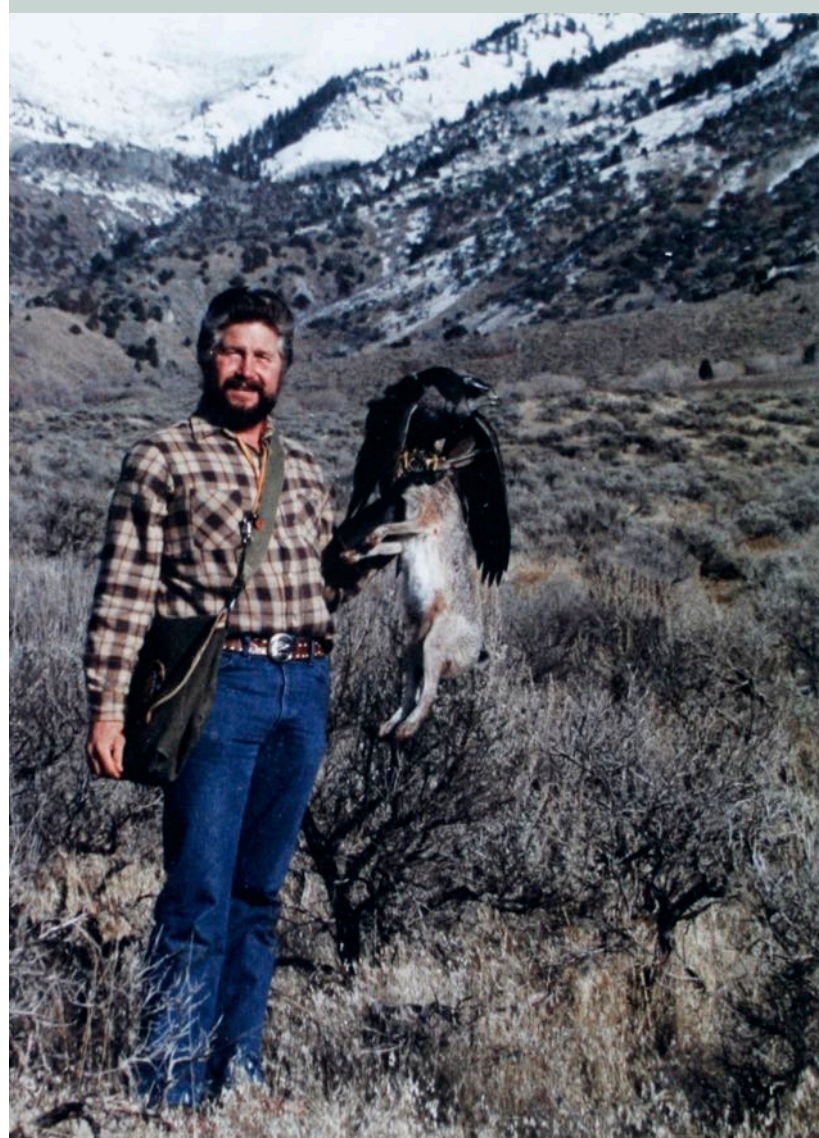




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Jesse LaRoy Woody was born May 18, 1940 and died on July 3, 2012 surrounded by his family. He was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma to J.C. and Goldie Woody and was soon joined by his brother Darrell Ray and sister Nancy Caroline. He attended school in Shawnee and graduated from Shawnee High School. After attending Oklahoma Baptist University for two years, he joined the US Army and was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. On March 16, 1962, he married fellow soldier Sandy Drew. Jesse and Sandy returned to Oklahoma where he began working for Southwestern Bell Telephone. In 1969, their eldest daughter, Erin, was born. Daughter Heather followed in 1974. The girls were the light of Jesse's life and he loved his role as their father. In 1977, the family moved to Boise, Idaho, sight unseen and Jesse began to work with Mountain Bell. He and Sandy divorced shortly after, but always remained good friends. Later Jesse married Paula Puckett, but was divorced some years later.

Jesse always had a passion for birds of prey. When he was 14 he read a book by John and Frank Craighead on the subject and his lifelong love of falconry was born. He was a founding president of the Oklahoma Falconers' Association and served several terms as President of the Idaho Falconers Association. He was active in the North American Falconers Association and served a term as Director-at-Large. Because of his exemplary service to falconry, he was honored with lifelong memberships to both the Oklahoma and Idaho falconry associations.

In Tribute (by Kelly Hardy)

Jesse was a larger-than-life presence in this world and already it is not the same place without him. Soon after Jesse found out that his illness was terminal he said "Well, I have had wonderful family and great friends, and because of that I

have no regrets." And of course this was true. In all the stories that Jesse told of his adventures he never had anything but happiness in his memories and kindness for the people that shared these experiences with him. I would like to thank everyone who has been a friend to Jesse for sharing this life with him. It is hard for me to imagine him not being around, especially during the next flying season. Who will we share our stories with and listen to stories of the past?

Jesse was no recluse falconer. Even when his health prevented him from flying much, he was sure to attend meets and events so he could spend time with friends and educate the public on birds of prey. For him, I think most of his joy in falconry was the people involved. I thank the Oklahoma Falconer's Association for presenting Jesse with the honorary Lifetime Membership and letter of appreciation that they had in the works even before Jesse got ill.

My whole life I wanted to be a falconer, so long now I can't even remember why I became interested. In high school I was an artist and was drawing pictures of Jesse and his hawks from the Idaho Statesman, 10 years before I even met him. When I was a volunteer tour guide at The Peregrine Fund, I remember an ornery bearded dude quizzing me on what an *austrianger* was. I had to admit to him that I had never heard the word before, but included it in all of my tours after that. When I wrote him seeking apprenticeship, he warned me that he would be the toughest, strictest sponsor and should probably see if someone else would sponsor me. I found him to be nothing but a kind and gentle teacher, forgiving of all my mistakes and truly enthusiastic about my progress.

Jesse Woody, I will miss you. Blue skies and open fields.





Oklahoma Falconers' Association
Hereby Awards
Honorary Lifetime Membership
to
Jesse Woody - Master Falconer

For leadership in establishing
the original state club and for
exemplary service as the founding President.

With many thanks and appreciation.

June 9, 2012



Jesse Woody was recognized by both the Oklahoma and Idaho Falconers Associations with an Honorary Lifetime Membership for his role as founding member and President.

