

William 'Bill' John Arnold

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ASTORIA, Ore. - William "Bill" John Arnold, 47, a planner and planning administrator in Montana and Oregon, died July 29, 2003, in Astoria.

He was born Aug. 18, 1955, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to John C. and Janet (Van Skike) Arnold. He graduated from Burlington High School in 1973 and from the University of Montana in 1982 with a bachelor of arts in geography. He was a land-use planner and planning administrator for 22 years in Montana and Oregon. At the time of his death, he was the Community Development Director for Clatsop County.

Mr. Arnold was Clatsop County's planning director from April 1998 through March 2000, when he returned to Montana, where he spent most of his career. Clatsop County recruited him back on Nov. 28, 2001.

Mr. Arnold was planning director for Gallatin County, Mont., from September 2000 to November 2001 and planning manager for Ravalli County Land Services in Hamilton, Mont., from April through September 2000. He had worked for the Yellowstone County Planning Office in Billings from February 1986 through April 1998, the last 10 years as the planning director. Before, he had been the planning director for Lewistown and Fergus Counties and for Central Montana District VI Human Resources Development Council and a planner intern for the Montana Department of Community Affairs.

He grew up in Burlington, Iowa, studied music at Indiana University and earned a bachelor's in geography from the University of Montana. He was a professional member of the American Planning Association and had been president, vice president and a board member of the Montana Association of Planners.

In 1990, he married Diane Musselman in Red Lodge, Mont. She died in December 1993.

Mr. Arnold enjoyed river rafting in Montana and Oregon and on the Missouri River. He enjoyed backpacking camping, fishing with friends and being with his dog Maxine. He loved music and enjoyed golf. He enjoyed his friends and kept in contact with many as far back as grade school.

Survivors include his parents, John C. and Janet C. Arnold of Mesa, Ariz.; sisters, Cheryl Buck of Peoria, Ill., and Sandra Petersen of Kearney, Neb.; numerous nieces and nephews; one great-niece and one great-nephew, and his 15-year-old Labrador retriever, Maxine.

Memorial services will be Monday, Aug. 4, at 11 a.m., at First Baptist Church in Astoria. The family can be reached at 5350 Ash St., Astoria, OR 97103.

Memorial contributions may be made to Lower Columbia Hospice or the American Cancer Society in care of Hughes-Ransom Mortuary, 576 12th St., Astoria, OR 97103.