

# Larry T. Connolly, PLS

## 1957-2015

We were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Larry Connolly, PLS on July 6, 2015, of natural causes. He was a former Director of the PLSC, active in the Southwest Chapter, and has served as the County Surveyor of La Plata County since first being elected in 2000. He helped start the Four Corners Area Surveying Seminar Committee, and was the founder and co-owner of Animas Surveying and Mapping in Durango, since 1992. In 2007 he was appointed by the Governor of Colorado to the State Board of Engineering, Architects, and Surveyors where he served until his death.

His last official act as the La Plata County Surveyor was on Independence Day, when Connolly walked in the Bayfield and Durango parades with county-elected officials and staff members. "We extend our condolences to his wife, Stacey DeJong, his daughter, Savana, and his entire family," said Gwen Lachelt, La Plata County Commissioner in a statement. "Larry exercised his office with commitment, enthusiasm and integrity, and we are so grateful for his service to the citizens of La Plata County."

Lawrence T (Larry) Connolly was born January 6, 1957 in Oakland, CA to Gerald L and Mary Norma

Connolly. Grew up in Oakland Ca, and graduated from Skyline High School in Oakland in 1974. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying rock climbing and hiking through Yosemite National Park as a young man. He moved to Idaho, continuing his love of the outdoors and enjoyed climbing and skiing around the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Larry graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1982.

He moved to Denver Colorado to work in Surveying in 1983. In 1992 Larry moved to Durango and co-founded Animas Surveying and Mapping with his partner David Friemuth. In later years, he and his wife Stacey became avid SCUBA divers, traveling around the islands of the Caribbean photographing and enjoying the wonders of the coral reefs. ♦



Photo: *The Durango Herald*

### From the AES Board

*At the July 10, 2015 meeting, the Members and staff of the Board of Licensure for Architects, Professional Engineers, and Professional Land Surveyors recognized Settlement Specialist, Dennis Rhodes, to provide his report on the activities of the Expedited Settlement Office. During that report Dennis offered the following that captured the feelings of the Board and staff as we struggled with the loss of Board Member, Larry Connolly, PLS. The Board wanted to share Dennis' words with you...*

I only have a few things to tell you on my case status report. I have much more to tell you about a Board member who is no longer with us and who we will all miss terribly. Larry epitomized what I have always so loved about this Board and why you have always been my favorite. He always had something interesting to talk about. Whether about work, Board business, or his most recent exotic vacation. It was always a pleasure to see him, to talk to him and to listen to him. But he was always serious, thorough and conscientious about Board business .... and one of my favorite traits, Larry had a sense of humor and loved to laugh. Needless to say, I like that!! I don't remember any of my AES Board time without Larry.

When I looked at his obituary I was a little alarmed when I saw that Larry was younger than me, by a few years. Sheesh!!

Well, he would want us to persevere, that's all we can do .... and he would also want us to laugh.

So I say, "hear, hear" to Larry Connolly. God has a hell of a surveyor in heaven and a good man. When we get there, we know that the boundaries of our lots will be true and accurate. Monuments will be properly placed and our plats duly recorded. ♦

