



**J**oseph W. Sabol, ESQ. went to his great reward on January 17, 2010. Joe was seventy-five years young. He was born July 28, 1934 in Endicott, New York, the only son of Joseph and Hazel (Eberlin) Sabol.

After high school, Joe attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute where he pursued his education in civil engineering and received a Master's Degree in geology. After college, Joe entered the Army and was stationed at Fort Belvoir outside of Washington, D.C. While at Fort Belvoir, he taught various subjects in the engineer school during the day and enjoyed Washington at night. During this same period of time, Joe researched, wrote and published paleontological publications in conjunction with the Paleontological Research Institute at Cornell University in New York.

Joe met his wife, Ellie Czerw, while in the service at Fort Belvoir. They were married in Washington D.C. on October 1, 1960, and for the next several years, Joe and Ellie lived in Springfield, Virginia. During this period of time, Joe was involved in the construction industry. He served as project engineer on the installation of a nuclear research reactor at Walter Reed Hospital and the FDIC facilities in downtown Washington. Also during this time, two children were born into the marriage, Joseph W. Sabol, II "Joby" and Jennifer Whitney Sabol.

In October of 1968, the family moved to Bozeman, Montana and settled in Bridger Canyon. In 1970, with the help of his mentor, Hjalmar Landoe, Joe worked as a law clerk for the then Chief Justice of the Montana Supreme Court, Frank Haswell. While at the court, Joe "read the law" and in October of 1971, passed the bar exam and was admitted to practice the law in the state of Montana. On January 28, 1974, a third child, Justin Hjalmar Sabol, was born in Bozeman.

Prior to leaving the court, Governor Forest Anderson appointed Joe to the newly created board of Natural Resources and Conservation. Joe served as a member of the board and was subsequently appointed as its chairman by Governor Tom Judge. During this period, the board was involved in the highly controversial Coalstrip 3 and 4 power plant sitings, and the Yellowstone River Water Reservation program. At the conclusion of his term on the board, Joe represented the board as its general counsel.

Joe began his practice of the law in Bozeman in 1971 as a sole practitioner. In 1987, his son, Joby, joined him. Joe and Joby practiced together until Joe's retirement in 2001. Joe's practice was highlighted by his representation of Big Sky Lumber Co. and his involvement in 1993 and subsequently in 1998, in the Gallatin Land Exchanges with the United States Forest Service, the transfer of lands in the Porcupine Drainage area near big Sky, Montana, and in the Taylor Fork drainage to the public. These efforts placed upwards of 100,000 acres of privately held land into public ownership. Joe was instrumental in resurrecting the land exchange in Park County involving the United States Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Church Universal and Triumph. Joe was especially pleased with his involvement in the transfer of the Ousel Falls Park land to the Big Sky community.

In the early 1980's Joe established Bridger Canyon Tree Farm. He had no former horticultural training but delighted in raising the many trees, shrubs and perennials that rapidly grew to a full time business operation. The tree farm is presently owned and operated by Joe's son, Justin.

Joe was an avid fly fisherman all of his life. Joe and Ellie spent a great deal of time in raising and training bonsai trees. After his retirement from the practice of the law, Joe continued on to be involved in the Bridger Canyon Tree Farm, and became passionately involved in astronomy. He will be missed by his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother and Father.

Joe is survived by his wife, Ellie; son, Joby (Renee) and their two children, Rachel and Laurel; his daughter, Jennifer (Larry) Kramer and their daughter, Kambrie; and his youngest son, Justin (Dustee) and her young son, Douglas.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, January 22 at Dokken-Nelson Sunset Chapel. Interment will follow in Sunset Hills Cemetery. Visitation at Dokken-Nelson will be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Should you wish to honor Joe's memory, you may do so through a donation to the Big Sky Community Corporation for the preservation of the Ousel Falls Park.