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In Memory

*"If I have seen farther, it is by standing
on the shoulders of giants."*

– Sir Isaac Newton, 1676

KENTON RUSSELL ACORD. Kenny Acord lost his year-long battle with cancer on June 30, 2006. He was 25. Kenny was the son of Bobby Acord, the former deputy administrator of USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services. Kenny earned an M.S. degree in anthropology/archeology at Northern Arizona University in 2005. He was employed by the National Park Service as an archeologist at Navajo National Monument. He is survived by his true love and partner DeeAnn Tracy, his parents Bobby and Anna Acord, and his sister Leigh Anna Willard.

DON BALSER. Don passed away on December 24, 2006, at the age of 83. He worked for the Denver Wildlife Research Center (DWRC) from 1961 to 1980, when he retired to the State of Washington. He was the first chief of the predator research section when it was formed in the early 1970s, and he presided over DWRC predator research during its most difficult time—the aftermath of the 1972 Presidential ban on toxicants. Widely respected as a fine researcher, he served as an advisor both to conservationists and livestock industry leaders. In 1979, he received the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's citation for meritorious service, recognizing his significant contributions to wildlife management and innovative research.

RANDALL J. "RANDY" CHOATE. Randy passed away on June 13, 2006, of lung cancer at the age of 56. Randy was a wildlife specialist of the Louisiana Wildlife Services program. He worked for almost 10 years in south central Louisiana, where he was an expert beaver, coyote, and small carnivore trapper. His colleagues consider him one of the most memorable characters in Wildlife Services. His first love was "punching cows," and he was affectionately known as the Cajun Cowboy. He was a teacher, local historian, and tour guide to many Wildlife Services' employees who had the opportunity to work with him. He was part of a team that assisted in the rescue of numerous people from floodwaters in New Orleans following hurricane Katrina. Despite having lost his home and farm to a hurricane, he led an effort to move stranded people and livestock to safety.

KRISTIN NIELSEN PERKINS. Kristin died June 26, 2006, in a tragic automobile accident. She was 23 years old. She was the wife of Berryman Institute student Chris Perkins. At the time of the accident, Chris was in Wyoming working as an intern with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services. She is survived by her parents, 3 sisters, 1 brother, and her husband.

GARY OLDENBURG. Gary passed away recently from natural causes. He was 62. Gary endured a lifelong struggle with diabetes with good humor and continued to be active during his retirement. Gary started his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 1965 and moved to USFWS Animal Damage Control in 1986. He rose to become USDA Wildlife Services State Director of Washington state. During Gary's tenure in this position, he supervised programs not only in Washington, but also in Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam. He is survived by his mother, 3 married children, and several grandchildren.

JESSICA CLARK TAYON. Jessica passed away on January 15, 2007. She was a student in the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at Utah State University. A Quinney Scholar, she was a senior in the Wildlife Science Department and a member of the Jack H. Berryman Institute. In 2005–2006 she served as a CNR student ambassador, worked as a Tehabi intern, and had a long history of helping with projects for both the Berryman Institute and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. She will be remembered as an amazing young woman who was full of grace and charm and who was always willing to help colleagues. She lived life to the fullest.

CHARLES WEAVER. Charlie passed away on July 27, 2006, while working for USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services. He joined WS over four years earlier as a wildlife specialist. One of his significant contributions was the leadership he provided in testing the drug nicarbazin for goose fertility management. His work helped lead to the registration of OvoControl (see In The News of this journal for more information on OvoControl). ❄