

Montana loses past District Governor Pyfer.

The following is the obituary received by KSpan:

Clark Pyfer passed away surrounded by his loving wife and family at the VA Hospital at Fort Harrison, Montana, on January 14, 2005, following complications after a broken hip. Clark was born January 17, 1919, in Townsend, Montana, to Art and Lola (Dimock) Pyfer. He was raised in the Whitehall and Three Forks area and graduated in 1936, from the Three Forks High School. After working for two years in the Trident Cement Plant, Clark attended Chilocco Business College, where he met friend/best man Paul Kleffner. After graduating in 1939, at age 19, he worked for a short time in Houston, Texas, as Secretary to the Executive Vice President of a chain of lumber companies and later returned to the Trident Cement Co., as Secretary to the General Manager.



**Former Montana District Governor
S Clark Pyfer
1919 - 2005**

He was hired at the East Helena American Smelting & Refining Co., and worked there as a metallurgical accountant until entering the service in 1942 at Fort Douglas, Utah. Clark served as a Staff Sergeant and acting First Sergeant for 42 months in the Medical Detachment of the Air Force in Florida and California. He was honorably discharged at Hammer Field, California, on February 19, 1946.

Clark met the love of his life Mary Elizabeth Sasek in East Helena. They married on May 11, 1946, and were blessed with four sons: Don, who passed away in 1973, Bob (Jeanne) and Rick, both attorneys in Helena, and Bill, a technician with Qwest in Scottsdale, Arizona. Four grandchildren also survive Clark: Rick's children Sara and Chris Pyfer, and Bob's two daughters, Nicole (Jay) Lindgren and Lora (Joe) LoDuca. Clark also had the pleasure of being a great-grandfather to Nicole's son, Jaret Carson Lindgren, born 2/6/03, and Lora's daughter, Angelina Nicole LoDuca, born 12/12/04.

Clark joined the CPA firm of Galusha, Higgins & Galusha upon discharge from the military and qualified as a Certified Public Accountant in Montana and Idaho. From 1965 to 1977, he served as President and General Manager of the firm. The firm encompassed seven employees when he joined in 1946, growing to 125 with six offices in two

states by 1977, making it approximately the 35th largest CPA firm in the United States. After retirement, Clark not only continued his work as a Financial Consultant, but poured time into countless other interests.

During his career, Clark served as President of the Montana CPA Society and was honored in 1962 as The Outstanding Montana CPA: only the second person to be so honored. He served as Secretary and Chairman of the Montana Board of Accountants. He also served as the Treasurer of the Republican Party of Montana for over three decades.

Clark's public service included holding every office in the Montana Kiwanis Club and serving two terms on the International Board of Trustees. Clark and Mary attended the first two International Kiwanis conventions outside the Western Hemisphere in Vienna, Austria (1983), and Nice, France (1993); both times they also visited Mar's family's native Slovenia.

Clark also served as Chairman of the Montana Chamber of Commerce and was particularly proud that Business Week for High School Students and the Montana Chamber Foundation were two programs initiated during his term. As Vice Chairman and later Chairman of the Chamber Building Committee, he was instrumental in the acquisition and sale of the Old Great Northern Depot to the Federal Reserve Bank, facilitating the construction of the beautiful Federal Reserve Building which anchors the north end of the Gulch. Always interested in what was best for Helena, Clark was a charter member of the Helena Improvement Society (HIS), Vice President of the Helena Chamber of Commerce, and a charter stockholder in the Helena First organization which built the Park Plaza Hotel. In addition, his firm was the major force in building the Arcade Building in 1975 under the Model City Program. Clark also acted as a prime mover in the Canyon Ferry Lake Owners' Association. In recent years he was active in the Hometown Helena Pride leadership group.

Clark was an individual committed to countless organizations geared towards the betterment of Montana and Helena, including the Montana Ambassadors, Helena Ambassadors, Carroll College Board of Trustees, United Way (Past-President), Community Concert Symphony, Grand Street, the Montana Boy Scouts, Salvation Army (lifetime member), Reeder's Alley, Green Meadow Country Club and many others. He was a founding member of the Montana Community Foundation and an active participant in the Governor's Task Force on Planned Giving which proposed the legislation for the charitable income tax credit.

During his tenure as President, Clark proudly oversaw the million-dollar restoration and refinancing of the historic Montana Club, of which he was a 50-year member. He also served as statewide finance chair to fund and build the Red Cross Blood Facility in Great Falls under the late Ted Cogswell.

Spiritual growth and development was extremely important to Clark. A Mason and Shriner for over 60 years, Clark was also a devout member and supporter of St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Parish of East Helena. His other religious activities included charter membership with the Governor's Prayer Breakfast Steering Committee and participation in the Steering Committee each year since its inception, attending weekly fellowship breakfasts every Wednesday morning. Clark was dedicated to East Helena and helped form the East Helena Kiwanis Club which provided years of service to the town. He also actively worked to save A.S.A.R.C.O.

Clark's business ventures included the development and annexation to Helena of the Sleeping Giant Addition (anchored by Sleeping Giant Lanes) with his lifelong friend, Paul Kleffner. He served on many boards including Home Federal Savings Bank, successor to Home Savings and Loan. He was a board member of Mountain States Telephone Co.; Northwest Bank (1963-1986); Columbia Paint Co., and American Chemet Corporation.

Due to Clark's many community involvements he was selected in an Independent Record poll of local business and community leaders as one of the most influential people in Helena. When asked who they would go to if they wanted to have something accomplished Clark's name topped the list with the then Mayor Russ Ritter.

After his retirement, Clark mentored numerous business people and organizations, always eager to share a joke or a story from his huge repertoire and always happy to help a good cause. Clark Pyfer was service and dedication personified. He embodied these qualities daily throughout his fruitful life, selflessly serving his family, his community, his city, and his state. His efforts and positive influence continue to spread throughout Montana, and his legacy of love and generosity will continue to touch us for decades.

Dad, Hubby, Grandpa, we will deeply miss you. Your love of family was your trademark. Your love of your neighbor was your calling card. "God Bless" was always your greeting. All who knew and loved you will truly miss you. "God Bless" and "God Speed, Oh Loyal and Faithful Servant."

(Kiwanian Clark Pyfer is the second past District Governor Montana will honor this year. The first was past District Governor Emil Paul Eschenburg who passed away in November. Both Kiwanians were from Helena.)

Human and Spiritual Values: Russ Myers

"A man who fails well is greater than the one who succeeds badly.

One who is content with what he has, and who accepts the fact that he inevitably misses very much in life, is far better off than the one who has much more but who

worries about all he may be missing. For we cannot make the best of what we are, if our hearts are always divided between what we are and what we are not." By Thomas Merton.



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