



Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
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Around here when you say “Friends of the Territorial Capitol” thoughts immediately turn to the group who donate an amazing amount of time and energy organizing and promoting great events at the Statehouse like the Storytelling Festival we all just enjoyed.

But another friend of the capitol just passed away and today I would like to express my thanks for the great contributions he has made to places around our state.

Fred Hayes became the director of Utah State Parks and Recreation in 2012 at the age of 53. He was loved by all of the employees of his department as well as countless family and friends. He had an amazing memory when it came to the people he met and always showed a genuine interest in everyone.

Fred grew up in Duchesne, Utah where his early years were full of fun and service to others. He excelled in everything he attempted from Boy Scout projects, including receiving his Eagle Scout, to being an outstanding student and enjoying football and debate and serving an LDS mission to Japan.

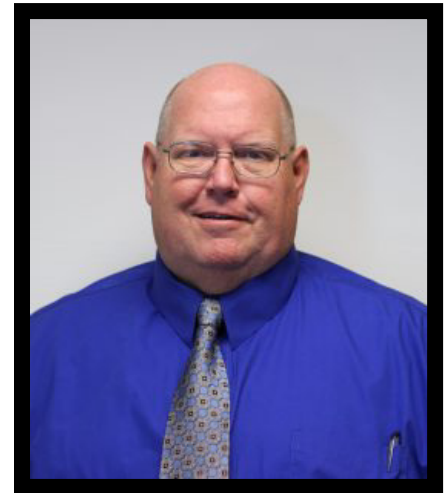
He met his wife Serena through classes at Utah State University and they married in 1991. The following year he got the job as the education coordinator at the Rock Cliff Nature Center at Jordanelle and moved his family to Heber, where he spent the rest of his life.

I first met Fred when the Sand Rock RidgeRiders ATV Club applied for and received a grant to build the ATV bridge just north of Fourth North in Fillmore and for the blue ATV route signs you see everywhere around the east side of the county - all 540 of them. Fred was there at the meeting I attended prior to receiving the grant and was very helpful. He was there at the bridge the morning we cut the ribbon and enjoyed donuts and orange juice with the club members on the edge of Chalk Creek.

Fred was also part of a panel discussion I was on at the Utah Recreation Convention a few years ago. I remember the hours I spent preparing and how knowledgeably and effortlessly he did his part.

Fred was always on the other end of my e-mails when I sent questions, concerns, and comments, and always responded right away.

About a year ago, I wrote *The Face of Fillmore* about the national and state parks within easy reach of Fillmore. As part of that I asked Fred what his favorite was among the state parks. He said that was a hard thing to do but ended up with the following comment: “I have a real soft spot in my heart for the Territorial Statehouse State Park. As a very young Ranger, Territorial



Fred Hayes

was my first permanent assignment. In fact, Territorial Statehouse State Park is probably the reason I pursued park management as a career. I'll share a short story if you have time. As a young boy, my family took a trip to pick up an aunt from Dixie College in about 1968 or so. I was 8 or 9 years old. We stopped in Fillmore and made a visit to the museum. As is typical of a kid that age, I asked the man behind the counter a question. Probably a typical stupid little kid question. He couldn't answer my question, and I pretty much forgot about it as we toured the building. I never gave it another thought, but as we were walking away from the museum, east toward Main Street, he came running out of the building carrying a big book and flagging us down. He had found the answer to my question and wanted to make sure he caught us before he left. I never forgot that experience and when the opportunity came to go to work at Territorial, I jumped at it. "I'd worked seasonal for the Division of Parks and Recreation for several summers, but Territorial was my first "real" ranger job. I learned a lot there and enjoyed my time. I had great experiences with the people I worked with, the people of Millard County, and the supernatural residents of the Territorial Statehouse."

Fred was a wonderful and kind man who will be sorely missed by those blessed to know and love him.