

## Biography

Bennie "Jack" Rudder

Alamosa, Colorado

I was born and raised in rural Pueblo County, Rye, Colorado specifically, and have lived in rural Colorado for most of my life. I understand the issues confronting those of us who choose to live in the remote and sometimes isolated parts of this beautiful state. I have been involved in veteran's affairs since the early 1980's and I am concerned with veteran's issues in rural Colorado. Distance to adequate health care facilities is only made worse when you consider our mountainous terrain and variable weather conditions in the winter. Many of our older veterans don't like to, or can't, drive at night or over our mountain passes in the winter time making transportation a big obstacle.

Currently, I'm the Vice Chairman of the Colorado Board of Veteran's Affairs.

I'm the County Veteran Service Officer for Rio Grande County.

The adjutant, a Life Time member (and a past Commander) of Dickie-Springer Post 113 of American Legion in Alamosa, Colorado.

Life Time member of Post 13, Disabled American Veterans, La Jara, Colorado.

I retired from teaching at Sanford Jr/Sr High School, Sanford, Colorado in 2004 where I taught industrial arts for 25 years, and retired as principal.

Since retiring from teaching I have dedicated myself to coordinating military honors for deceased veterans within the San Luis Valley. To date I have participated in over 500 such ceremonies.

Thanks to the GI Bill, and working nights as the Country Western disc jockey at radio station KGIW in Alamosa, I was able to graduate from Adams State College, Industrial Arts Education, in 1979, and received my Master's Degree in Educational Administration in 1984.

I worked as an Emergency Medical Technician—Intermediate for Alamosa Ambulance and in the ER at San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center for 12 years (nights and weekends).

I have also worked as a high school football official (10 years) and as a Master Hunter Education Instructor for the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife (32 years).

**I served in the United States Air Force, 1966 to 1970 as an aircraft radio/navigational aids repairman.**

I'm one of the founding fathers of Fort Garland Memorial Regiment, through historical re-enacting, we honor Colorado's involvement in the Civil War and the Indian Wars.

Over the years I have been an avid fly fisherman, fly tier, hunter, bowhunter/bowhunter instructor, back packer, search and rescue volunteer, and living historian fur trade/mountain man eras.

I've been married to the light of my life, Theresa Savala Rudder since October 10, 1970, and have one son, Robby.