

MILO L. McGONAGLE, JR.
March 7, 1930 – February 8, 2021



Milo Loyal “Mike” McGonagle Jr, 90, passed away February 8, 2021 at Kingston Residence of Santa Fe, New Mexico and in the care of Ambercare Hospice. He was preceded in death by his father, Milo Loyal McGonagle Sr., mother, Dorothy Meral McGonagle and brothers, Donald Dean and Charles Hugh McGonagle. Mike’s family is deeply appreciative of the care given to him by the staff at Kingston, Thomas Kravitz MD, Fen Satorius MD, and Ambercare Hospice.

Born on March 7, 1930, Mike grew up in the Great Depression in a small, hard scrabble but neighborly town, Sterling, on the austere, windswept plains of northeastern Colorado with adoptive parents Milo “Mac” and Dorothy McGonagle and two younger brothers. This small town, rural environment formed Mike’s character and core values: common decency, truthfulness, relentless hard work and compassion for those in need of help. Like others where he grew up, he nourished a lifelong passion for plain spoken talk and down-to-earth fundamentals. Mike was not a diplomat: he got things done directly, without artifice or guile. Adroitly, when working in business and banking with others, he softened the harshness of the high plains by bringing to bear in most all he did a mild, tempered, even-handed spirit of common decency and truthfulness, a spirit sometimes achieved by that rarified few who can be ranked as a “a friend of the transaction.”

After graduating from Sterling High School (think American novelist Larry McMurtry and the coming of age film *The Last Picture Show*), Mike went to college, graduating in 1952, earning a BS degree in Accounting and Finance from the University of Colorado where he was an active member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. With his degree, he joined the mortgage department of The International Trust Company in Denver, Colorado. While working there, he caught a glimpse of the banking world. However, he was soon called away to serve two years as a sergeant in the US Army. In 1954, Mike joined the management team at Thermal Engineering Corporation in Houston, Texas where he lived and worked until 1963. A goodly part of his time in Texas was spent in difficult, exasperating negotiations with unions.

His next position brought him to Santa Fe, New Mexico where he worked as a member of the management team for Eberline Instruments Corporation. While at Eberline, recognized for the astute man he had become, he was asked in 1969 to become a member of the board of directors of First National Bank of Santa Fe. Soon he left Eberline to become president of First National Bank where he served as president until 1985.

Mike’s next banking venture, in the late 1980’s, took form when he joined with a number persons at Century Federal Saving and Loan and an investor to effect its acquisition and help grow it over the ensuing decades into the major bank it is today, Century Bank. He served as long-time president of Century Bank and long-time head of the bank’s holding company that he also helped form.

Through the years, Mike volunteered with many Santa Fe organizations, including the Santa Fe Chamber of Commerce, where he served as President, initiating a welcome theme: *Accentuate the Positive*. Much as he enjoyed that work, his two most cherished appointments, by Governor Bruce King, were as Chairman

of the Board of Trustees for the state's Miners Hospital in Raton and as a member of the New Mexico State Board of Education from 1991 through 1994. He loved helping people in need of help.

Mike was known as a great negotiator. He tried to understand all sides and from that vantage he would work solving what many considered to be intractable problems. To be sure, not all his negotiations succeeded, but most did: his can-do, positive attitude exemplified his approach to banking. Withal, Mike relished supporting and mentoring younger people in hopes they too might obtain his success. He often said he learned more than he taught. And he did. He loved to learn. His mind was ever curious.

Mike is survived by his wife of sixteen years, Wendy Dunaway, who lives in Santa Fe; her daughters by a previous marriage, Jorie Waterman, husband Laurence Jurdem who live in Darien, Connecticut, and their one child, Elliot Waterman Jurdem; Missy West, her husband Travis West, who also live in Darien, Connecticut, and their two children, George and Jess. Mike is also survived by his daughter, Minda McGonagle, her husband, David Disko, who live in Albuquerque, New Mexico, granddaughter, Lauren Akin who resides in Burlington, Vermont; nephew, Erin McGonagle and his wife, Debbie, their children Shelby McGonagle and Paxton McGonagle, and Paxton's wife Danica, and their two children who live in Roswell, New Mexico. He also has extended family in Colorado and the State of Washington.

Due to Covid-19 the family will be holding a small private interment at the Church of The Holy Faith Columbarium on March 4, 2021, outside, at 12:00 noon. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to St. Vincent Hospital Foundation.