

**In Memory of Roy M. Breckenridge, 71
(1945 – 2016)**



Adapted for AASG by Michael Ed Ratchford, State Geologist of Idaho

Roy M. Breckenridge, retired State Geologist and Director of the Idaho Geological Survey, died August 1, 2016 after an honorable battle with cancer.

Roy was born in Spokane, Washington on June 4, 1945, to Charles and Lois Breckenridge. True to his parents' character and determination Roy was humble, kind and determined. He received excellent marks academically in the East Valley schools of Spokane and participated in track and field and 4-H.

Roy's work ethic was ever present as he put himself through his undergraduate degree program at Washington State University in Pullman. He found his passion in higher education, learning and solving the timeless mysteries of how our land had been formed. He received his master's degree and Ph.D. in geology at the University of Wyoming, all prior to the age of 30. During this time, he also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a medic.

Roy took a position as a Research Geologist at the Idaho Geological Survey in 1977 in Moscow. Roy remained at the Idaho Geological Survey until 2014 when he retired as the Director of the Survey and State Geologist of Idaho. Working with collaborators that included geologists, geophysicists, emergency managers, and educators, Roy authored or co-authored over 105 maps, reports, and field guides published by the Idaho Geological Survey. His research interests focused on Quaternary geology and natural hazards of Idaho. Contributions include earthquake and landslide hazard studies, and surficial geologic maps of northern and central Idaho. Glacial geology and the Missoula Floods were of special interest to him. Roy was an expert on the Clark Fork ice dam area of the Missoula Floods and contributed to numerous megaflood field guides and field trips. Roy was also an enthusiastic supporter of geological education, particularly for

middle school earth science teachers. Late in his career, he became involved with the designation of the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail and the Ice Age Flood Institute. He assisted with many IAFI field trips and is fondly remembered as a highly knowledgeable and competent geologist never too busy to answer questions. Roy attended national geology conferences and summits for many years speaking of the importance of safety preparedness, education and science. He had many friends and peers from the local, state and federal level.

Roy fondly spent time on his property in Moscow living in a barn-wood home as unique as he was. He passed on his passion for rocks and science to his two grandchildren, who were given rock samples, nature identification books and microscopes when they were toddlers.

Roy is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Kreaman; son in-law Bob Kreaman; and grandsons, Kash and Kannon; three (3); sisters, Dana Komen, Sally Breckenridge and Laurie Castle; and brother in-laws Don Komen and Steve Wilson.