



Up Front

Mike.
By C.J. Hadley

I met Mike Coffman at a conference in Reno in the 1990s. He was one of three main speakers, the others being Henry Lamb from Hollow Rock, Tennessee (formerly a big shot in Chicago), and Tom DeWeese, who ran American Policy Center in Washington, D.C. Formidable men all. Passionate. Articulate. Enlightened and enlightening. And they all talked more sense than I had heard in decades.

At the time I was publishing *RANGE* with a bunch of talented freelancers and a smoking, drinking, hard-charging reporter from *Rolling Stone* named Tim Findley. Some readers will remember Findley's genius and beautiful writing, and the fact that he lived hard and died young after 15 years with us. Findley was at that Reno conference with me and it was from that moment on that *RANGE* started to stretch out and flourish.

I was looking for more good writers and the way that Mike Coffman talked made it obvious that he could also write. Mike earned a Ph.D., he had lucrative jobs, he was admired and cherished. But when his integrity was questioned he took a walk because he loved this country and could see that it was rolling fast toward tilt.

Our timing was perfect. I discovered a decent man and fabulous researcher, who was writing about issues that were beyond my ken. Fascinating topics that opened doors and minds, and...possibly...could change the world.

Since then, Mike has written more than 50 special reports for *RANGE*, each brilliant. They include: "The Greening of America," "Chicken Little and the Polar Bear," "Secret Science," "Twilight Zone to Lunacy," "The Energy Debacle," "Myths and a Myopic Media," and an Al Gore special called "The Real Inconvenient Truth." (Most can be found at rangemagazine.com.)

Mike's bailiwick included environmental zealots, liberty and private property rights, global warming and governance, Agenda 21, and the greedy, far-reaching progressives—Republicans and Democrats—running the federal government.

He exposed the radicals running the EPA, the notorious United Nations' Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, wrote a scathing portrait of billionaire George Soros and the manipulation of climate data by Prof. Michael E. Mann of Pennsylvania State University. Mann traffics in what Mike called "pseudoscience" and his last story is about that professor, who was recently found in contempt of court in Canada for refusing to share his faulty and doctored data.

Mike was a beautiful human. Perfectly honest and mentally cuddly. He labored hard to make sure that what he wrote was accurate, always with backup and citations from numerous sources. He believed in Ronald Reagan's "Trust, but verify."

I could trust Mike. He taught me a great deal. I could count on Mike. He always did



Mike and his beloved Suz, with daughter Tamera, son-in-law Philip Scharer, and son Jon in San Francisco (Suz' hometown). This photo was taken Thanksgiving weekend in 2013.

what he said he would. I could pay him badly (he knew it was the most we could find), because, for him, it was the mission that counted.

Mike was a generous man who shared his knowledge, but he also shared his heart, soul and spirit. As sick as he was over the past two years he never gave up. He continued to smile. He continued to write. He made our lives better. He made *RANGE* better.

Mike was born on Sept. 7, 1943, in Anaheim, Calif. He died on June 21, 2017, in Bangor, Maine, while putting final touches on "Climate Lies," starting on page 50.

Fair travels, my friend. Tens of thousands of *RANGE* fans, and I, already miss you. ■

RANGE

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