

# Arapahoe County Profile

The Villager Profiles highlight heroes, personalities, unique and fascinating lifestyles of individuals and families in the area

## Cottrells share many of life's ambitions

*Humor, skills, business, politics, charities, sports, music, love for children, children's causes*

BY SCOTTIE TAYLOR IVERSON

Most in Republican political circles know or know of the dynamic duo – Bo and Lynne Cottrell. What many may not know is the colorful history of the Midwest transplants and just how they live their lives to the fullest while finding time to give so much. Both are award winning and energetic catalysts in a number of arenas.

"I don't know why I'm chosen for all these great honors," said the modest Bo.

In 1970, a Jefferson County newspaper named him "Man of the Year." In 1990, he was presented with the "Point of Light" Award by President George Bush, Sr. because of his charitable efforts. Bo's comprehensive biography was read into the Congressional Record of the 107th in Washington, D.C., on March 30, 2001, by Congressman Tom Tancredo. In 2007, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

His life journey includes travels in Europe as a Military Police officer, being a musician (The Lawmen who scored a hit and were invited to the White House), an entrepreneur (Hotel Security, LLC, Taylor's Supper Club, Bo & Eddie's Bar & Grill) and marketing director (Pure Water). His skills and contributions to the Republicans landed him stints with the Colorado Office of Economic Development, chairman of the Parole Board for the state of Colorado and chairman of Arapahoe County GOP from 1997-2001. Bo has leveraged his connections and talent to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities. Just a few of his community contributions, include forming Kops and Kids, the Easter Seals Golf Tournament, the Make A Wish Golf Tournament and serving on the organization's board.

"Bo's life is much more interesting," said Lynne. "He has the ideas and I like to stay behind the scenes and execute. I am a worker bee."

Bo disagrees and as their own mutual admiration society, they are quite a team. For the past three years they have produced the Gary Morris

T.A.P.S (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) Celebrity Invitational. The two-day event including celebrity entertainment is to aid families and friends left behind by those who served in uniform and made the ultimate sacrifice by fighting for the freedom of our country. Putting grieving families with other grieving families - reaching out to others in pain is in accordance with T.A.P.S' goal - compassionate care. At first, the couple declined the opportunity, but when Bo received a call from a friend in California who said he

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—Bo Cottrell

Red Wings. In high school, she wrote for the school paper and was a sports correspondent for the *Grand Rapids Herald*. She attended Northwestern Journalism School to be a sports writer.

couldn't have withstood the mourning of his son's death without T.A.P.S. that conversion touched his heart and the couple signed on with their usual vigor.

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and no one worries about taking the credit," said Bo.

Lynne was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Dr. Claire and Peg Cartier. (He was the dentist for Rep. Gerald Ford.) She was a sports-woman – riding and showing horses, hunting, fishing and following sports with her dad, especially the Detroit

Lynne. "Maybe I was ahead of my time, so I transferred to Michigan State to pursue my second favorite profession, teaching."

With a teacher's degree in hand, she traveled to Aspen, fell in love with Colorado and was hired by Denver Public Schools.

Lynne was introduced to Bo and was attracted to his charm and humor. Their paths were interrupted when Bo was drafted for military service. She attended CU graduate school, married and had two children. Later, she taught in Adams County, became an assistant principal, but declined the principal position to spend time with her family.

While she bought horse property in south Denver and taught in the Cherry Creek District, Bo had returned to the area, married and started businesses. They met again at Taylor's Supper Club when he was in the process of a divorce. Their 28-year marriage has been filled with shared interests and successes.



The Cottrells at Gov. Owens' Inaugural Ball. They also attended the Inauguration of President George W. Bush in 2001.



Bo and Lynne on their wedding day with their children. (Lynne's - Ian and Holly, and Bo's daughters - Lexi and Amy in front)



Kent Alan Cottrell at age 3



Lynne Cartier at age 21 months

**"We work hard, but live, love, give back and laugh a lot!"**

—Lynne Cottrell



Shown with Duke Ellington, Lynne was crowned Varsity Queen at Michigan State.



Lynne's dad, Dr. Claire Cartier, was then Rep. Gerald Ford's dentist. Pictured is Michigan Gov. George Romney, Dr. Cartier and Ford.



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Since retiring from education, Lynne's pursuits have included running two weight loss/nutrition clinics and marketing Lifecall emergency alert systems, owning horse properties in Parker and dabbling in real estate investment and management for the last 15 years.

"We work hard, but live, love, give back and laugh a lot," said Lynne.

She followed Bo as chairman of the Arapahoe County GOP, championed several political campaigns and has had the daunting task of overseeing volunteers from around the country as well as their logistics. Her communication skills still shine. In addition, she worked on the ballot initiative for First Class Education.

"We are most blessed, however, to have all four of our kids and grandchildren living in Denver," said Lynne.

Bo, the athlete who lettered in three high school sports and was class president, got his nickname from singing *Cheyenne Bodie* on the team bus. He was born in Hartford City, Ind., and attended the University of Indiana. He was also the son of a Church of Christ preacher and sang in a gospel quartet.

"When we first met," said Lynne, "I was ready to dance and party, but his idea of a date was going for a strawberry sundae..."



Bo (center) with Steve Phelps and Eddie Johnson, The Lawmen that he formed and for whom he wrote music.



Lynne was an accomplished equestrian winning championships until serious accidents caused her to sideline herself in favor of golf. (Her mom was city golf champion in Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Photos courtesy of the Cottrell family