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Eulogy for George Kornee

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- To My friends of liberty and the Republic -

George was a patriot and a good man. I met him in August, 2015 in Montana at his home up on his mining claim in the mountains near the small town of Lincoln. George inherited the mining claim and company from his father, and spent his entire life up there in a cabin. The only time he ~~he~~ left the mine for any substantial amount of time was to serve in the Air Force during the Vietnam War, making him a veteran. George loved the mountain and all he cared about was mining, like the ~~D~~ Dwarves from the Lord of the Rings movies. He was primarily after lead, manganese, molybdenum, zinc, cadmium, copper but also gold and silver. For the last seven years though, the Federal Government - Forest Service because of the Helena National Forest - made him shut down his mining operation. From what I was told, mining regulations require a plan of operations detailing everything happening on the claim including any structures built. At some point, and I don't remember the whole story, George built a shed for his Bobcat tractor. The local Forest Service agents already not happy with George for other reasons, threatened George that because the shed was not authorized and if he didn't tear it down, they would. They also threatened they would burn down his shop, cabin, and destroy all his mining equipment. George called out for help from the patriot community. The Oathkeepers

Organization launched Operation Big Sky, a security operation to ensure that George received Due process and that he and his property remained safe and secure from any unlawful acts. That's when I showed up, answering that call, as many other oath keepers did, ready to put our lives on the line for someone we've never known, but yet an American citizen nonetheless. I spent a couple weeks with George in his cabin, sitting around all day talking and drinking coffee. We shared stories and many laughs. I have a small interest in mining from some gold mining in California, but a different kind. I had done dredging, George did hard rock mining. So I picked his brain a lot on his process and on geology. His knowledge on rock and minerals was mind blowing, especially for his age - 84. His brain was sharp. Probably the pure unadulterated mineralized mountain spring water he drank his whole life. I enjoyed my time spent with George very much and I sure miss him. One night, real late, I was having a conversation with George; and we were talking about the situation with the government's tyranny. I asked George: what do you want to see happen before you die? He told me two things that he dreams of. He wants ~~his~~ to see his mine back in full operation and the Constitutional ~~restored~~ Republic restored to the way it was intended. Unfortunately neither of his dreams came to fruition. This has caused me considerable grief. I have by it because the government caused so much grief for George and it's

not right. Good men like George inspire and motivate me to do the work that I ~~to~~ and others do, to keep trudging on in the cause for liberty. George's dream of a Constitutional republic restored is the same dream that I have and I wish to see it happen before I die too. George just wanted to be left alone to live his life of mining up there on the mountain without interference. I often ask myself, and other people, what do I have to do to be able to live my life, to live free. I would bet that George asked himself the same question: what do I have to do?

George, I will never forget you and I will tell the generations of how you stood up to tyrants, and how we stood together not just for ourselves, but all Americans. To all my friends and other patriots who stood with George, ~~let~~ let's not allow his dreams die with him. Let us not allow the dream die with us either.

By, Schuyler Barbeau