

Meet Dan Condit...

It is hard to sum up a man like Dan Condit in just a few paragraphs. He is a family man with a strong faith in God and a love for the outdoors. Known for his sense of humor, he is a hard worker, a wonderful father, and a faithful husband. In their 46 years of marriage, He and his wife, Cheryl, raised their 6 girls and 1 boy, as well as provided a safe haven for several of their children's friends—some they even took in as their own from time to time. Over these many years of raising their children and building a home and life together, Dan and Cheryl have faced every challenge that has been thrown at them together. Dan was a school teacher for 31 years. Much of that was spent teaching woodshop/tech education at Central High School., though he also taught P.E., Drivers Ed., and Geography. As you might imagine, raising 7 children on a teacher's salary would be tricky. So for 10 years, Dan would work nights stocking shelves at City Market, then go to the school after his shift and sleep for a couple hours in the family van before spending the day enlightening the minds of youth. All the while, Cheryl worked as a Registered Nurse and coordinated the efforts of running the household. They have always made a good team and balanced out each other's strengths and struggles.

Daniel has always been an avid outdoorsmen and sports enthusiast. In high school he ran track, played football, and wrestled all 4 years. He lettered in track each of the years; he was the Gunnison Valley league and District Champion in the mile run, and placed in the top three at all of this track meets his senior year. He lettered and was elected team captain in wrestling for 3 years and beat several state champions, though he never was one. He lettered in football twice. This love of sports continued through college at the University of Northern Colorado where he was the 3rd and 4th runner in the 1965, 66, and 67 seasons and participated in the indoor track mile and 440 Dash. Even into adulthood this passion for competing and being active continued he spent time coaching and refereeing those sports. He was a part of the Colorado Wrestling Officials association for 33 years and refereed matches until 2009. He has volunteered as a leader for the Boy Scouts of America for most of 40 years. During that time he was an example to and helped teach boys the skills necessary to be responsible men. He participated in 3 winter snow cave activities, several summer scout camps, 50 mile hikes afoot and afloat, High Adventures 79 miles down the Green River toward Lake Powell, and numerous troop campouts and hikes. As the avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsmen, it was quite a surprise to Dan and Cheryl when they began to notice muscle loss, as he had always been extraordinarily strong and able bodied.

Dan had retired from teaching in 2000. While many people look to retirement as a time for relaxation Dan saw it as a time to open his own business laying fiber optic cable. He started this successful business just a few years prior to his muscle loss. This was the beginning of what would become the most recent, and arguably most difficult, challenge that Cheryl and Dan have teamed up to beat. In 2009 Dan was diagnosed with ALS. Determined to get the best care possible Dan and Cheryl traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix, AZ. Initially the doctors decided that Dan was misdiagnosed as he had seen some significant improvement and the typical ALS has no improvement associated with its progression. However, a few months after the improvement, Dan began to decline significantly and rapidly, finally plateauing for several months in 2012. Still searching for answers, in the summer of 2013 they traveled to Prescott, AZ and got a conformational diagnosis of ALS. Through the whole process, through the ups and the downs, Dan and Cheryl have faced it all head on, standing strong together, hand-in-hand, with a love that is pure and goes beyond eternity. They have done their best to make do with the resources they have at hand. There have been many logistical challenges which they have made creative solutions for, with lifts, scooters, and minimal accommodations. Dan had been able to walk short distances with assistance and a cane for some time, until recently in early 2014 he had a spell and was in the hospital for about 5 weeks. It was at this visit to the hospital that Dan and Cheryl learned that Dan would spend most of his time in a wheelchair moving forward. During the time, the rehab and physical therapy team

taught Dan and Cheryl the safest ways to transfer, move, and deal with life in the wheelchair world. In the last few months the dynamic duo has had to make many decisions and modifications to their life. During the last few months Dan and Cheryl have moved into a rental house while their home is being remodeled to accommodate the new wheelchair. They have worked to get insurance companies to cover costs of lifts and other tools to adjust to the new way of life. They had to sell their car and were looking for wheelchair accessible options when they got a miracle call from the Keenan Family. In the few short weeks since that time, this gift of paying it forward has allowed Dan to more easily attend church services, participate in family activities, and attend some of his 16 grandchildren's little league and junior soccer games. Most recently the use of the Keenan van allowed Dan the opportunity to attend his mother's funeral. Were it not for the kindness and blessing of the Keenan Family, Dan would not have been able to participate in these significant events and activities. This gift has allowed Dan to be involved in life, to participate with his family, and continue to make lasting memories. Dan Condit is full of life with a mind and wit as sharp as a tack and a heart as big as can be. He is involved with his church and makes sure he spends much of his time with his dear friends and family, all of which have pitched in to help the transitions go as smooth as possible. With their faith in God, their loving family, and devotion to one another, Dan and Cheryl face this unknown as they have all the others, with positivity, optimism, strength, courage, and of course a little bit of humor.

Sincerely, Dan Condit's family