

# Joseph B. 'Joe' Bowen

December 7, 1922 – April 11, 2007

A funeral service for Joseph B. "Joe" Bowen, 84, were conducted at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 14 at First Christian Church in Wheatland, with Pastor Andy Gudahl officiating. Interment with military rites accorded will follow in the Wheatland Cemetery at Wheatland.

He died Wednesday, April 11, 2007, at the VA Medical Center in Cheyenne.

Joe was born Dec. 7, 1922, in Wheatland, one of seven children of LeRoy L. and Luella (Jesmer) Bowen. He was reared and educated in Wheatland. He joined the military in 1943 and was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne during World War II. He was wounded in action and received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Upon his honorable discharge in 1946 he returned to Wheatland. He became involved in the crop dusting business and later in the business of farming. Joe married Jean Runyan on Aug. 4, 1947, and they raised their three children Bob, Rick, and Deb in Wheatland. In the early 1960's, Joe and Clark Haeberle started a real estate business which spanned some 40 years. Joe was instrumental in purchasing much needed water and land for the Wheatland Irrigation District; and in 1974, he put together the land and

water package for the development of the Missouri Basin Power Project. Joe was an avid supporter of the youth of Wheatland, Wheatland athletics, and of the University of Wyoming Cowboy Joe Club. Joe loved Wyoming, Platte County, Wheatland, and the many people he met on his journey through life. He will be missed by many.

Survivors include his wife, Jean; his children, Bob, Rick, and Deb; a sister, Anna; seven grandchildren, Tina, Rikki, Bob, OK, Todd, Trish, and McKenzie; and three great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Lilly, and Ben. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Arlo and Louis; and three sisters, Eileen, Mary, and Charlotte.

Serving as pallbearers will be Bart Trautwein, Shawn Madden, Frank Jones, Bill Vines, John Lockman, and John Rothenbuehler. Honorary pallbearers will be Tim Weaver, Joe Johnson, and Jim Stevenson.

Memorials to the Cheyenne VA Hospital, Attention: Agent Cashier for the Extended Care Unit, 2360 East Pershing Boulevard, Cheyenne, WY 82001 would be appreciated by the family.

Gorman Funeral Homes - Platte Chapel of Wheatland is in charge of the arrangements.