

# Ronald Laverne Davis

September 25, 1951 - May 19, 2016

Ronald Laverne Davis, 77, of Cheyenne passed away in his sleep on Saturday, May 14 at Granite Rehabilitation and Wellness Center in Cheyenne after a long battle with COPD.

Ron was born on Monday, Jan. 16, 1939, in Wheatland to Russell J. and Wilma K. (Kuehner) Davis. Growing up he attended school in Wheatland, graduating in 1957.

While in high school, Ron played football and basketball for the Bulldogs, but admittedly fouled out of more than half of the basketball games he played in.

After high school, Ron enrolled in college at the University of Wyoming. In 1961, he graduated with a degree in dairy manufacturing. During his time in Laramie, Ron was an active member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity where he developed friends from across the state as well as lifelong memories. Legend has it that, in 1960, Ron and three of his fraternity brothers were responsible for retrieving Cowboy Joe after the pony had been kidnapped by University of Denver students. Ron and his friends returned Cowboy Joe to Laramie just in time for the home football game on Oct. 8 between Wyoming and Denver.

On June 30, 1962, Ron married Jerra L. Johnston, in Wheatland. The couple moved to Cheyenne where Ron started his first job with Plains Dairy. In 1963, they moved to Riverton after he was offered a job at the First National Bank. This led to a 40 year banking career across Wyoming and even to Nebraska. From 1977-1984, Ron took a short break from banking when he became involved with the automobile industry. He started in sales and the day-to-day operation of Chopping Chevrolet. He later purchased the dealership and changed the name to Century Chevrolet.

Throughout his life, Ron was involved with his church, alma mater, as well as business and community service. He was an elder in the United Presbyterian Church in Riverton. Ron was also a member of the UW Alumni Board



and was a president of the Riverton Chamber of Commerce along with the Lions and Rotary Clubs. In 1973, the Riverton Jaycees presented Ron with the Distinguished Service Award. In Rawlins, he received the Businessman of the Year from the local chamber of commerce.

But he especially enjoyed his involvement in the Cowboy Joe Club. He was one of the original directors, a position he held until 2007. Ron loved the Wyoming Cowboys and attended as many football and basketball games as possible.

After retirement in 2006, Ron looked forward to his daily visits with his buddies at the Airport Coffee Club. He also attended Cheyenne Hills Church until his health declined.

Ron is survived by his wife, Jerra, of Cheyenne and two children, Devin (Kim) Davis of Chadron, Neb. and Dari Joannides of Broomfield, Colo. Three grandchildren also survive, Brandon Smart of Casper, Tyler Smart of Sterling, Colo., and Maaryn Davis of Chadron. He is also survived by his brother-in-law, James Bohl and nephew, Kendall Bohl, both of Wheatland.

He was preceded in death by his father, Russell, on May 19, 1973; mother, Wilma, on June 19, 2002; sister, W. Kay Bohl, on Apr. 13, 2015; and brother-in-law, Larry K. Johnston, on July 4, 2004.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 28 at the Wheatland Cemetery with Dr. Devin Davis officiating with a reception to follow at Vimbo's Restaurant.

The family requests that donations, made in memory of Ron, be directed to Davis Hospice Center, 6000 Sycamore Road Cheyenne, WY 82009, or Wheatland High School Old Grads.

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

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.gormanfh.com](http://www.gormanfh.com)