

Robert Francis Shepard

February 26, 1937 – February 6, 2016

Robert F. (Bob) Shepard passed away Saturday, Feb. 6 at his home in Wheatland with his family by his side. The community is invited to join the Shepard family in celebrating his life at Vimbo's on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to wear their brightest green shirt, bring a deck of cards, and be prepared to share their favorite Bob stories.



devoted to Wyoming, and to the Wheatland community. He served on the Board of the Wheatland REA, and was a reliable supporter of local FFA and 4-H programs. His farming and cattle feeding operation grew in size and scope, and for more than 40 years, he enjoyed the reputation of being able to find work for anyone who was willing to show up.

Despite his many travels, Bob was Wheatland's consummate favorite son. He was born here on Feb. 26, 1937 to L.A. (Toad) & Pauline (Nagel) Shepard. Bob attended Wheatland schools, graduating from Wheatland High School in 1955. He attended Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Mo. for his first year of college before returning to the University of Wyoming in Laramie to complete his studies. In 1958 he was selected to represent the U.S. as an ambassador with the International 4-H Youth Exchange Program. He spent six months with a host family on the plateaus of Columbia interacting with Ag producers and sharing innovative ag technologies with local farmers and ranchers.

His outspoken commitment to Wyoming and its agricultural economy earned him the respect of many of agriculture's most brilliant leaders, as well as politicians, dignitaries, educators, and market experts. His eye for livestock and ability to create value in feed cattle was unsurpassed, and his knowledge of ag markets and experience in commodity trading was legendary. Bob was constantly seeking new and innovative opportunities in production agriculture. He installed the first pivot in Southeastern Wyoming in 1969, and was on the leading edge of technology from that point on. His zest to be more productive and efficient in ag production was with him till the very end.

Bob's love of aviation began at an early age, and he earned his private pilot's license while he was at Wentworth. In February of 1961 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and sent to Ft Wolters, Texas to begin his short career as an Army Helicopter pilot. While serving his country, he flew H-12, H-13, H-34 and UH-1 helicopters. He helped keep the peace during heightened tensions in Alabama during his time at Ft. Rucker, and then was sent to Viet Nam in 1962 as part of the 1st Air Calvary at Ft Hood, Texas. He was wounded while flying a Medi-Vac sortie in June of 1963; and with that event, Bob Shepard became the first U.S. Serviceman from the state of Wyoming to be wounded in the Viet Nam conflict. The Army sent him to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Denver to recover from his injuries, where he met an Army nurse named Lana Brooks. They were married on March 12, 1964.

Bob Shepard will be remembered for the brilliant light in his blue eyes and the boundless energy he brought to every endeavor. His enthusiasm was infectious; he never worked a day in his life, because no matter what, he always did what he loved. He is preceded in death by his parents, Toad and Pauline and his brother Bill. Bob is survived by Lana, his wife of nearly 52 years, sons Robert B (Bunker, wife Shawn) and L Brooks (LeAnn), & his daughter, Beth Hendon (Jon); Grandchildren Tana Howard (Todd), Taylor (Jessica), Tori, Kaci O'Grady Shepard, Samantha, Rylan, and Robert Hendon. He is survived by three great-grandchildren, and hundreds of friends, partners, and rescued souls. We're gonna miss him.

Bob and Lana returned to Wheatland in 1964 where they lived; farming, feeding cattle, and raising their family until his death. Bob was fiercely

Memorials in Bob's name have been established to the Wyoming FFA Foundation, 1286 Upton Fairview Road, Newcastle, WY 82701 and the Mountain States Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, 12200 East Iliff Ave, Aurora, CO 80014. You may dedicate your contribution to Wyoming Vets only, if you wish.