



Joseph Stuart Hayes

May 17, 1945 - June 6, 2026

Joseph Stuart Hayes, lovingly known to many as “Cowboy Joe,” passed away peacefully on June 6, 2026, in Lady Lake, Florida, at the age of 81.

Joe was born on May 17, 1945, in La Plata, Maryland, to Bob and Mickie Hayes. Throughout his life, Joe embraced hard work, adventure, and the people he loved with a spirit that was unmistakably his own.

He began his career with Southern Maryland Oil before moving into sales management with the Kronheim Company. Joe also shared his love of tennis as a professional instructor at the United States Naval Academy. Later, alongside his brother John, he managed several retail stores, building both business success and lifelong friendships along the way.

Eventually, Joe followed his heart west to Columbus, Montana, where he fully embraced the life he loved most — auctioneering, riding, and living the cowboy spirit that earned him his beloved nickname. Montana became a place where Joe’s adventurous soul truly felt at home.

Joe will be remembered for his warm personality, independent spirit, storytelling, sense of humor, and the genuine connections he made wherever he went. Whether on horseback, calling an auction, teaching on the tennis court, or spending time with family and friends, Joe lived life fully and

authentically.

He is survived by his loving wife, Vicky Hayes; his brother, Mike Hayes and wife Lori; his daughter, Michelle Carder, her husband Pat, and their daughters Morgan and Riley; his son, Todd Renner, his wife Julie, their son Christian and wife Josette, and their daughter Abigail; and his son, Jake Davidson, his wife Ann, and their children Mark and Holly.

He is also lovingly remembered by his niece, Heather, and nephew, Shawn, along with many extended family members and dear friends whose lives were touched by his kindness, humor, and unforgettable spirit.

Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Bob and Mickie Hayes, and his brother, John Hayes.

A private memorial service celebrating Joe's life will be held later in 2026 in Montana, a place that always held a special place in his heart.

Joe's memory will live on in the stories shared, the lives he touched, and the enduring cowboy spirit he carried with him always.

Tribute Wall

SD

“ Vicky. So sorry for your loss. Hold tight to all the memories and know you are being surrounded in prayer. Love. Renee

Sherrie Diechman - Yesterday at 07:36 PM

RL

“ You will be missed as a great friend and the many laughs you would bring, my God recieve you with open arms. God will have a great cowboy and one that will bring many laughs.

Ray & Marie Mc Lane - Yesterday at 03:42 PM

TR

“ You don't know how much you'll be missed. You were always there rooting for me and encouraging me. May you rest in peace until we meet again! Love, Todd

Todd Renner - Yesterday at 03:29 PM