



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

LC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Lora Clawson - June 24 at 07:19 PM

LC

Michael, John, & Joe

Lora Clawson - 21 minutes ago

LC

“ *Our deepest sympathy to all who loved Joe. His spirit made its way into your heart with his love of life & laughter. Each of us will remember the special times with shared with Joe. He will never be forgotten as he will always live on in each of our hearts. Deepest sympathy, Lora*

Lora Clawson - June 24 at 07:16 PM

MI

“ *Most of my memories with my father are pre-Montana when he lived in Annapolis near me. I spent a lot of time with him during this chapter of his life. We played tennis, rode horses, hiked & went on ski trips. I worked for him in his feed store and auction businesses. I looked up to him so much & wanted to be just like him. He was into psychology and turned me on to reading self help books and pushed me to eat healthy and exercise. He really set an example of how to live fully, and strive for a good quality of life. I followed his entrepreneurialism. I shared his love of dogs. Anything he set his mind to .. he could and would make happen. He dreamt big and fulfilled his lifelong dream to move to Montana and live in a cool log cabin. He manifested it and it happened. He was so charming and funny. He was a super hero to me. I will always miss him and cherish the memories and photos I have of our good times together.*
Love Shelley

Michelle - June 09 at 12:35 PM

MI

“ *5 files added to the album Shelley's Album*



Michelle - June 09 at 12:33 PM

KM

“ We really didn't know Joe very well. We were new to Montana. We had met him a couple times on the road. We stopped to talk here and there. He lived across from us in Montana. One day, Jim walked out to the corral to feed the horses, and he hears someone hollering. Jim was not sure what it is. It was Joe and Victoria on the roof of his log cabin, and he was waving his arms, calling out, and you really couldn't make out what he was saying. Being the good neighbor, Jim waved at him, and yelled hello and Joe waved back then. Jim walked back into the house. We find out later that the ladder Joe had used had fallen, and Joe and Victoria were stuck on the roof and he was trying to get Jim's attention, so he could get off the roof. That's how we got to really know Joe. You can imagine what he thought about his new neighbors. We all laugh about it for many years. Still see you Joe, shaking your head. Love always to the both of you. Jim and Kathie Moerbe

Kathie and Jim Moerbe - June 09 at 08:52 AM

TT

“ I met Joe in Montana many years ago. We met due to our mutual love of golf and tennis. Together, we made so many wonderful memories of tennis matches and tournaments and golf trials and tribulations, too many memories to ever forget. I loved Joes humor, enough to say he just cracked me up all the time. I fail to see what he saw in me but nonetheless, we were Buddies. I'm sad that God needed Joe in heaven right now. I would have loved another face to face with my buddy, Joe.

Tom Thomson - June 08 at 06:29 PM

JB

“ Shawn--so sorry to read of your Uncle Joe's death!

Joanne Burkholder - June 08 at 10:59 AM

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 - June 07 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 - June 07 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 - June 07 at 03:29 PM

SD

Vickie and Family, The Delean Davisons send their love and warm thoughts to you. We all became adults together - great times fishing, sailing, camping, skiing, and so much more. Joe is part of us and is missed.

SUSAN DELEAN-BOTKIN - June 08 at 09:03 AM

TP

Vicky and family. We share your loss. He was always there with the grin and the laugh. So much of him lingers to this day in us. There are so many memories tucked away in our hearts and minds, too many to list but everyone of them brings a smile to our faces. Until we meet again. Wanting to share one more time together in eternity. Love forever, Tony and Carol Pereira

tony pereira - June 09 at 02:14 PM