

Ronald Lee 'Ron' Mills was born August 23, 1940 to Vernard and Viola (Peyton) Mills in Deadwood SD. The family moved to Newcastle in 1948 where Ron attended elementary, junior high, and high school. He met Mary Jane Dennis their junior year when she moved to Newcastle from Colorado to live with her older sister. They graduated together from Newcastle High School in 1958 and were married later that year on October 10 at the First United Methodist Church in Newcastle.

Ron enlisted in the US Navy after high school, serving as an aircraft engine mechanic for three years in Norman OK, Millington TN, and Port Hueneme CA where their sons, Chris and Craig, were born. He flew multiple peacetime flights in the Pacific region as crew chief on the Lockheed Constellation "Super Connie." After his honorable discharge in 1961, he brought his young family back to Newcastle to make their home.

Ron was involved in multiple business ventures with his father, Vern, and later with his son, Chris. Over the years, the core diesel repair business also included trucking, parts, welding, fabrication, and school bus maintenance under the MJT Construction and Newcastle Equipment names.

Ron started driving school bus '965' on the Osage route in 1968. He was a regular driver on activity runs ever since, transporting sports teams, the marching band, academics groups, etc. Anywhere Ron was needed, he would get behind the wheel and drive so students would get where they needed to be and he could participate with and support them.

Ron was elected a Board Trustee of Weston County School District #1 in 2000 and served 22 years until his retirement in 2022. Every decision he made carefully considered, "What does this do for kids?" That belief in doing what's best embodies his legacy of service for youth and for his community.

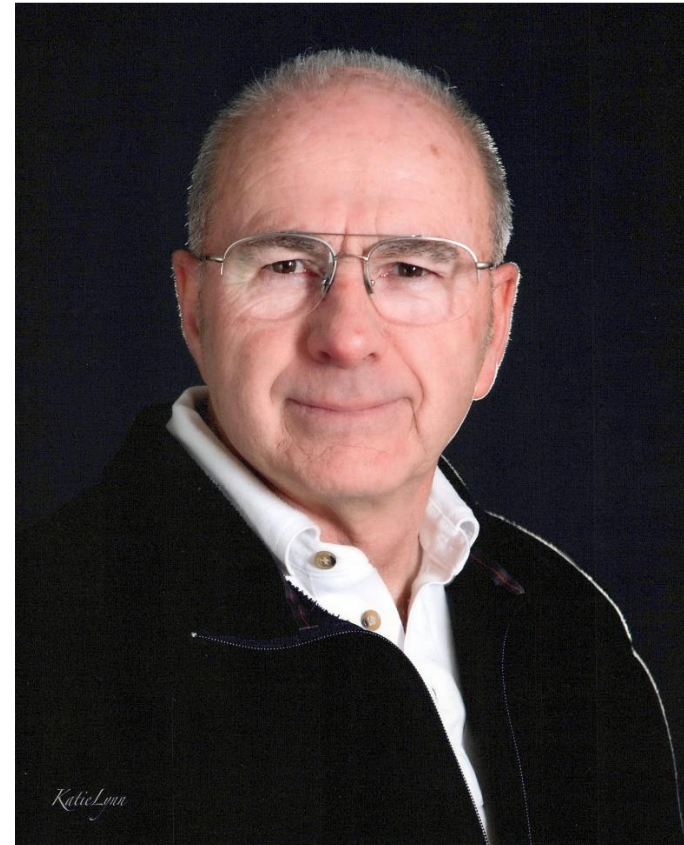
Ron was recognized over the years for his commitment to education, athletics, and service. Among his accomplishments – awarded the Community Service Award for outstanding support of student athletics in 2007, selected to the All Wyoming School Board in 2012, inducted into the Newcastle High School Hall of Fame in 2014, recognized as the 'Greatest Wyoming High School Football Fan' in 2014, attained School Board Leadership in Learning Level III in 2021, and honored by the Wyoming State School Boards Association with the Champion of Education award in 2022.

Ron loved doing home improvement projects with family, listening to old radio show recordings, and watching classic westerns. He was an amazing husband, dad, grandpa, brother, uncle, cousin, mentor, and friend, and he will be remembered fondly for years to come.

Ron is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Jane (Dennis) Mills, sisters Patricia Garrey of Sheridan WY and Cathy (Ron) Stanton of Rock Springs WY; son Chris (Tonia) Mills, grandsons Tyler Mills and Kyle (Kayla) Mills, and great grandchildren Ashlynn Mills and Karben Mills of Newcastle WY; son Craig (Candy) Mills of Clive IA, granddaughters Cailee Mills of Orlando FL and Caitlin Mills of Omaha NE, and grandson Carter Mills of Fairbanks AK. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, Eugene (Juanita) Mills, and his brother-in-law, Don Garrey.

A graveside inurnment service will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Ron's name to the Weston County School District #1 endowment.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RONALD LEE MILLS



August 23, 1940 – January 5, 2023

Sunday – January 15, 2023 – 2:00p MT

Newcastle High School Crouch Auditorium
111 Casper Avenue – Newcastle, Wyoming

'Well done, good and faithful servant'
-- MATTHEW 26:45

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that day, God was going to call your name.
In life we loved you dearly. In death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone,
For part of us went with you the day God called you home.

You left us beautiful memories, your love is still our guide.
And although we cannot see you, you are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same,
But as God calls us one by one, **the chain will link again.**

GOD'S GARDEN

God looked around his garden and he found an empty place.
He then looked down upon his earth and saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you and lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful, He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering. He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough, the hills are hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids and whispered,

"Peace be Thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you but you didn't go alone.
For **part of us went with you** the day God called you home.

'Sleep now, and take your rest'
-- MATTHEW 25:21

OFFICIATING

Pastor Ron Sample

SOLOISTS

Dean Johnson

Norma Lease

SONG SELECTION

The Old Rugged Cross
Amazing Grace
Go Ye Now In Peace

PALLBEARERS

Chris Allan Mills
Ron's Son

Tyler James Mills
Chris' Son

Kyle Colten Mills
Chris' Son

Craig Aaron Mills
Ron's Son

Cailee Renee Mills
Craig's Daughter

Carter Aaron Mills
Craig's Son

Caitlin Renee Mills
Craig's Daughter

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Ashlynn Viola Mills
Tyler's Daughter

Karben Colten Mills
Kyle's Son

RECEPTION

Immediately Following
School Commons -- 3:00p MT

GRAVESIDE INURNMENT

Date TBD
Greenwood Cemetery -- Newcastle, Wyoming