

# Howard Harlan Cozad

April 17, 1942 – February 23, 2007

Funeral services for lifelong Wheatland resident Howard Harlan Cozad, 64, will be conducted at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 3 at the First Christian Church in Wheatland with Pastor Skip Perry officiating and Jerry Orr as eulogist. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery.

He died Friday, Feb. 23, 2007, at the Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne, after a long battle with primary amyloidosis.

Howard was born April 17, 1942, in Wheatland, the son of Velma Marie (Gilbert) and Elvin Clifford Cozad. He was reared and educated in Wheatland, graduating from Wheatland High School in 1960. As a senior, he placed fourth at the State Wrestling Tournament at a time when all classes were combined. He then went on to attend Casper College on a wrestling scholarship. On March 17, 1962, he married Ann Eleanor Swallow in the Wheatland United Methodist Church. Howard worked at Drube's Machine Shop until 1972 when he purchased his own facility and operated it as Howard's Welding and Repair until 1980. He then served as Superintendent of Public Works for the Town of Wheatland. In the spring of 1983, he started Wheatland Fire Equipment Company, with his sons joining as partners in 1992, growing it to 22 employees. Howard was an active member of the Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department from 1964 - 1994, serving as Chief in 1975 and again from 1977 - 1983. He was an honorary member of the department from 1994 until his death. He was a member of the fire department dive team for 13 years, was a certified EMT, and volunteer ambulance attendant. He served as President of the Wyoming State Firemen's Association in 1984. Howard completed arson school at the Wyoming Academy and

had special appointments from the Platte County Sheriff's Office and the Wheatland Police Department as an arson investigator. He also served as an arson investigator for the State of Wyoming after completing training at the U.S. Fire Academy in Maryland. He was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Arson Investigators and International Society of Fire Service Instructors. He was appointed to the Volunteer Firemen's Pension Board in 1995 and served until January of 2007. He was also a past member of the Platte County School Board and in that capacity traveled to Washington, D.C. with the high school CLOSE-UP program on two separate occasions. His beloved pastime was camping in the mountains with his family.

Survivors include his wife of almost 45 years of Wheatland; two sons, Garey Cozad and wife, Kathy of Wheatland and Larry Cozad and wife, Julie of Milliken, Colo.; two brothers, Harvey Cozad of Wheatland and Richard Cozad of Las Vegas, N.M.; four grandchildren; and twin great-grandsons.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Serving as pallbearers will be Jerry Munger, Kim Lee, Ken Sutton, Gene Diedtrich, George Branscom and Gary Hobbs.

Honorary pallbearers will be members of the Wyoming Fire Service.

Memorials in Howard's name to the CRMC Davis Hospice Center, in care of 214 East 23rd Street, Cheyenne, WY 82001 would be appreciated by the family.

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