

John D. “Dave” Bonner

Medallion Service Award Winner



Medallion Service Award recipient Dave Bonner (B.S. '62, journalism) has spent his life in service to his beloved Wyoming.

For more than 60 years, Bonner has been building community and Wyoming's future through his work as a *Powell Tribune* journalist, editor and publisher, his many volunteer hours supporting the University of Wyoming and his service to organizations throughout the state.

"The newspaper plays a role in making a community a better place to live," Bonner says. "We believe if you take care of the community, the community will take care of you. If you work hard for your community and make it a better place, you improve

right along with your community."

Bonner began his journalism career in high school covering sports for the *Powell Tribune*. The Wyoming Press Association awarded him a scholarship to UW, and so he decided to pursue journalism as a career. At UW, he worked for the *Branding Iron* student newspaper, first as a reporter, then as sports reporter and then as editor of the paper.

"I got a wonderful education," Bonner says. "In the journalism department, you learn to be a community newspaperman. I learned how to do everything—from writing the stories to taking the pictures to actually printing the newspaper. That's where I learned to do what I love to do."

Upon graduation in 1962, he worked for a year at the *Riverton Ranger* before returning with his wife, Diane, to the *Powell Tribune*. He's been there ever since.

Bonner credits much of the *Tribune's* success to his very capable staff, many of them UW-trained journalism graduates: "The story of the *Powell Tribune* isn't just my story. Wonderful, wonderful people who have been key to our success. What a joy it's been to work alongside them."

Bonner has served his beloved alma mater for many years. He has spent countless hours as a member of the UW

Board of Trustees, UW Foundation Board, the UW Publications Board, the *UWyo Magazine* advisory committee and the UW Alumni Association Board, serving as president of the trustees. He was also director of the Cowboy Joe Club and the Wyoming Sports Hall of Fame.

"I love the University of Wyoming," Bonner says. "We are a University of Wyoming family. I have five siblings. We all graduated from the University of Wyoming. My three kids and my wife are all University of Wyoming graduates. We believe in the university—we love the place."

Bonner also loves the Pokes and tries to make every game, though it's a day's drive each way. The Bonners are season ticket holders. His children Brad, Shelby and Toby wrote, "We know he loves us deeply, but we like to joke about how the Cowboys are his favorite!"

The Medallion Service Award, founded in 1968, recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the university. It is only awarded when merited.

"I am just thrilled and amazed and surprised and humbled to win the Medallion Service Award from the University of Wyoming. It has tremendous meaning for me," Bonner says.

Wyoming Cowboys vs. Nevada

Friday, Oct. 21: Alumni & Friends Gathering - Reno, Nev. - Silver Peak Grill & Taproom (Downtown) from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. @ 135 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89501

Wyoming Cowboys vs. Eastern Michigan

Thursday, Sept. 22: Alumni & Friends Gathering - Ypsilante, Mich. - Arbor Brewing Company Microbrewery from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. @ 720 Norris St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198

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