

PROCLAMATION

RON BURNS JR. DAY IN DEADWOOD

MAY 23, 2023

WHEREAS, Ronald Burns was born in Aberdeen, S.D. before moving to the Lead-Deadwood area, and graduating from Lead High School in 1968.

WHEREAS, Ron proudly joined the U.S. Navy after graduation, serving on the U.S.S. Richard E. Kraus during the Vietnam War, not only doing all he could for his country but also making lifelong friendships with those he was alongside.

WHEREAS, after serving admirably, Ron returned to the Black Hills that he loved so much, going to work at the Homestake Mining Company, where his work ethic, attitude and know-how led him into a position as mill foreman.

WHEREAS, Ron continued work in the mining industry after Homestake closed its doors, working in Minnesota's Iron Range and with Dakota Gold, before retiring.

WHEREAS, Ron was blessed to have sons Orson, Moses Ward, Ronnie Burns III and Andrew and daughter Amy by his side throughout his life, always there to support them and of course be the proudest grandpa to 15 grandchildren. He loved to watch as they all accomplished so much in their lives.

WHEREAS, Ron spent his childhood, and adulthood, riding his horses throughout the Black Hills with family and friends, with King being his final ride.

WHEREAS, Ron's commitment to Deadwood was ever-present, having been a key member of the Days of '76 Committee, including holding the title as chairman twice, being on the Board of Directors for Broken Boot Gold Mine, Deadwood History, Inc., Terry Peak-Deer Mountain Ski Team, CASA Horse Expo and more.

WHEREAS, Ron's passion for his community led him to receive coveted awards such as the Spirit of Deadwood Award in 2006 and the Nell Perrigou Award in 2021. He was also chosen to carry the POW-MIA flag during the Custer State Park Buffalo Round-Up in 2021.

WHEREAS, Ron's love and commitment to his wife, Dawn, resulted in Ron being an integral part of many of Deadwood's largest events, whether he helped to park cars during Kool Deadwood Nites, drove floats during parades or donned the infamous Disco Ron outfit to celebrate Deadweird. He also selflessly traveled throughout the country to promote Deadwood as a visitor destination. His trademark cowboy hat attracting the attention of all, and his smile putting strangers at ease.

WHEREAS, some would say there has not been a kinder, gentler man that has graced the streets of Deadwood in many years, and he led his life and his family with dignity and strength, even as his courageous battle with cancer continued. Regardless of the circumstance, Ron was always dependable and always willing to lend a hand, regardless of how big or small the project.

WHEREAS, Ron's passing on Thursday, May 11, 2023, leaves a void in our community. His family and friends will be counted on to carry his torch, of which lit up the lives of all he encountered.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor David Ruth Jr., do hereby proclaim May 23, 2023 as Ron Burns Jr. Day in Deadwood, South Dakota and call upon the people of Deadwood to celebrate the life of a citizen, true friend and outstanding supporter of Historic Deadwood.

Mayor Dave Ruth, Jr.