

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 1, 2026

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Happy Trails Committee announces dedication of “Teense’s Corner”



The community is invited to the unveiling and dedication of a life-sized bronze *Honoring the Voice of the Valley*, Loren “Teense” Willford playing his guitar on the corner of 1st Street and Bridge Avenue, July 3, 2026 at 5:30PM

Teense proudly supported the valley in numerous ways, including announcing the Fourth of July and Christmas parades from this location spanning decades. It is a testament to his legacy to dedicate this memorial during our Country’s 250th anniversary. Teense served our great nation in the US Army, stationed in Germany on the Berlin Wall.

When he returned home to the valley, he dedicated his life to his family, community, state, and organizations that thrive to this day.

Teense’s service included:

- Executive Director of the Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Member of the Masonic Lodge
- Founding Board member of the Platte Valley Legacy Foundation
- Founding Board member of the North Platte Valley Medical Center
- Founding member of Bridge Street Bargains

Teense entered politics not for fame nor fortune but to give to his community serving as Mayor of Saratoga and twelve years as a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives. His advice and support were sought by Governors, US Senators, and members of Congress.

Teense cherished the family he and Sandy raised through sixty years of love and marriage.

A Saratoga legend and consummate entertainer, Teense never met a stranger and always gave tribute to God and Country. His voice delivered God Bless America proudly and robustly from this corner - throughout the valley, state, and nation.

Speakers at the dedication will include Former Speaker of the House, Eli Bebout, community leaders, current and former legislators, Joe Parrie, Mayor Chuck Davis, friends and family. Stop by at anytime before the event to see where he will be appearing, read his plaque, and marvel at his service.

About the bronze: Sculpted by John Rule the Teense Willford memorial bronze statue is seated on a bronze bench at the corner of 1st Street and Bridge Avenue, Saratoga, Wyoming. The bronze weighs 600 pounds and has a living natural patina.

The space is courtesy of Shephard Real Estate, in cooperation with the Town of Saratoga. The bench has been donated by Bridge Street Bargains. The plaque on the rock is courtesy of Jerry Fluety and the stone wall was designed and built by R. G. Raymer Construction.

The many contributors to the project will be honored at a reception following the dedication. If you'd like to contribute to Teense's Legacy and attend the reception please use the QR code or donate through the Platte Valley Legacy Foundation, Attn: Teense Memorial PO Box 1274 Saratoga WY 82331. All gifts are tax deductible.

The Happy Trails Committee:

- Judy Hamel
- Shelley Davis
- \Ellie and Randy Raymer
- Dave Picard

