

GH-R
6-14-2018

Robert James Mayo

Bob Mayo, 73, a Grinnell native, passed away May 26, 2018, from complications of a stroke.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 2, at the Cowboy Church of Erath County in Stephenville, Texas. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund, 101 Pro Rodeo Drive, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80919, www.justincowboycrisisfund.org.

Bob was born in Grinnell on June 15, 1944, to Charles and Bernice Haynes Mayo. He was raised as one of five children on the family farm, where the Mayos raised corn, soybeans, hogs, and dairy cows. He was accustomed to hard work on the farm at an early age, milking cows and feeding hogs before daylight. He attended grade school at the rural, one-room Sheridan Township School. Bob attended Grinnell High School, where he excelled in wrestling; he was the Iowa State Champion wrestler as a junior at 103 pounds.

After high school, Bob attended college briefly at Adams State University on a wrestling scholarship, but his interest soon turned to rodeo. Bob's older brothers, Don and Paul, were already having success on the rodeo circuit. Bob started rodeos in the RCA in 1964. In 1966, Bob qualified for his first of six consecutive National Finals Rodeos, from 1966 to 1971. Bob and his brothers revolutionized the sport of bareback riding with the Mayo wild laid-back spurring style. In 2011, Bob was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame.

He is survived by his wife Eva, her children and grandchildren; brothers Don, Paul, and Roger Mayo; and his two sons, Beau Mayo and wife Laura and Les Mayo and wife Tammy; and five grandchildren Clint, Clayton, Cody, Hunter, and Cameron Mayo.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Delores.

