

David Clifford Sowards

September 18, 1939 ~ April 2, 2025

David Clifford Sowards, born on September 18, 1939, in Provo, Utah, to Clifford Harmon Sowards and June Bee, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was 85 years old.

David's life was marked by a deep connection to the outdoors and a lifelong commitment to building both structures and relationships that would stand the test of time. After earning a degree in Economics from the University of Utah, David channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into owning and operating Great Western Mechanical. His work left an enduring legacy, particularly through his contributions to many buildings constructed throughout the Mountain West.

For over six decades, David shared his life with his beloved wife, Shari-Lee Bunot. Their marriage of 61 years was a testament to enduring love and partnership. Together they raised two daughters: Alison Sowards LeClaire and Michelle Sowards. Though Michelle preceded him in death, her memory remained ever-present in David's heart. He also found joy in the family that grew around him—his son-in-law Greg LeClaire and grandsons Zachary and Thomas LeClaire brought him great pride.

David is also remembered by his brother Scott Sowards and sister-in-law Heidi Sowards. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Steve and Doug Sowards.

A man who found solace and inspiration in nature, David spent countless days exploring Utah's mountains and wilderness. Whether hiking rugged trails, skiing fresh powder, or embarking on backpacking adventures, he embraced the outdoors with vigor and reverence. Hunting trips were not just pastimes but opportunities for reflection and connection with the natural world he so deeply respected.

Throughout his life, David shared these passions with a loyal pack of canine companions—Red, Sam, Addie, Lucy, and Stella—each one a cherished friend on countless journeys through forests and snowfields.

David's legacy lives on not only in the buildings he helped construct but also in the lives he touched—with strength, dedication, and quiet generosity. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him and continue to inspire all who walk the paths he once traveled.

A private ceremony with family will be held later in the year.