

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ---June 22, 2010**

Murphy, Idaho ----Owyhee County Commissioners Jerry Hoagland, George Hyer, and Dick Freund announce the posthumous selection of Don Davis and Gene Davis to the Commissioners' Roster of Outstanding Citizens.

Don and Gene Davis displayed equally extraordinary commitment to Owyhee County and to the Community of Bruneau in which they lived much of their lives. Both Davis brothers moved to southwest Idaho as very young boys and quickly began performing the work of men as they helped their father on the family dairy farm near Kuna. Both grew to be responsible hardworking young men, whose love of country was shown by their enlistment in the US Army during WW II. Both served with distinction in difficult theaters of the war. Gene served in the European Theater and was a combatant in the Battle of the Bulge. Don served in the Pacific Theater where equally bloody battles raged. Both brothers were recipients of the Purple Heart for wounds received in battle.

Both brothers returned from the war and went back to their farming and ranching pursuits while maintaining the strong sense of commitment to community and country which would be a significant part of their actions for the remainder of their lives. They began ranching in the Little Valley area of Bruneau in 1950 and established the Bruneau Cattle Company in 1959.

A listing of some of the many accomplishments of these two fine men are as follows:

1. Don Davis:
  - a. Member of Bruneau American Legion Post #83 : 64 years
  - b. Past President of Owyhee Cattlemen's Association.
  - c. Owyhee County Commissioner for 20 years.
  - d. Bruneau Rodeo Sec/Treas. for 8 years.
  - e. Owyhee County Fair Board Member.
  - f. Member of the Owyhee County Planning Board and Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee.
  - g. N.R.C.S.
  - h. Selective Service for 8 years.
  - i. Grassman of the year : 1964
  - j. Grand Marshal of Bruneau Rodeo in 1987.
  - k. Boy Scout Leader for Bruneau Boy Scout Troop #1 for many years.
2. Gene Davis:
  - a. Member of Bruneau American Legion Post #83 for 64 years and ultimately served as served as Commander and Chaplain of Post #83
  - b. Past President of Owyhee Cattlemen's Association, Idaho Cattle Association, Cattle-Fax, and the U of I Agricultural Consulting Council..
  - c. Member of the Owyhee County Planning Board and Natural Resources Committee

- d. Grassman of the year : 1964
- e. Member of the National Cattlemen's Assoc. Executive Committee
- f. Chairman of the Boise District Grazing Advisory Board, Boise District Multiple Use Advisory Board, Bruneau-Grand View School District Board, Bruneau River Soil Conservation District, and the Owyhee County ASCS Committee
- g. Director of the Western Idaho PCA and the American National Cattlemen's Association
- h. Represented Idaho on the National Public Lands Council.

The Award will be presented to members of the Davis family at 10:30 am on July 6th at the Owyhee County Courthouse.

CONTACT: Jim Desmond, Director, Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee,  
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Murphy, Idaho ----On June 11, 2004, The Owyhee County Commissioners announced the establishment of the “Commissioners’ Roster of Outstanding Citizens” as a recognition program for persons who have made significant contributions to the Custom, Culture and Citizens of Owyhee County. The Board at that time consisted of Chairman Hal Tolmie, Commissioner Chris Salove, and Commissioner Dick Reynolds.

The Commissioners established the recognition program in 2004 as a way of honoring individuals who have shown strong and long-term commitment to the county through their selfless dedication to the County’s custom, culture and citizens. In their announcement of the creation of the recognition program, the 2004 Board agreed that there was a need to recognize people whose contributions to the county showed extraordinary effort over a long period of time.

The current Board agrees with and continues to support the intent and purpose of the recognition program put in place by its predecessors.

The Commissioners’ Roster of Outstanding Citizens program consists of two plaques. A permanent plaque which will hang in the County Courthouse in Murphy bears an image of the County seal along with the following inscription: “The Owyhee County Commissioners’ Roster of Outstanding Citizens. The persons named here are honored for their selflessness, dedication, and Commitment to the Custom, Culture and Citizens of our great County.” Below the inscription will be placed the name of each recipient and the date of recognition. Each recipient will receive their own plaque which, in addition to the image of the County seal, bears the inscription, “The Owyhee County Commissioners Honor (recipient name) for lifelong service and dedication to the custom, culture, and citizens of Owyhee County. Given this (Date), Jerry L. Hoagland, Chairman, George Hyer, Commissioner, Dick Freund, Commissioner.

The current Board also continues to support the previously established intent that the recognition is not set on an annual, or other regularly recurring, basis.

The Board will make posthumous awards to the families of Don and Gene Davis on July 6, 2010. Their names will join that of the first recipient, Tom Skinner.

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