



Wayne Brown

September 13, 2025

Wayne Brown passed away Sept 13, 2025, at Poudre Valley Hospital after a sudden illness. He was born in Denver on July 4, 1949 - the start of 76 years of backyard barbecues and fireworks displays across the nation solely in his behalf.

Wayne graduated from Englewood High School and then Colorado State University where he met his eventual wife, Judi Farnell, a match made almost in heaven for the next 54 years. After trying his skills in construction, he found his passion in telecommunications, including 21 years working for USWest/Qwest and 13 years with the City of Fort Collins as a network engineer. Even after retirement, he loved the challenges of maintaining phone systems for several friends' businesses.

His positive, easy-going and enthusiastic spirit did not wane in retirement. Wayne enjoyed walking his dog TJ, biking, spending time at his cabin, gardening, reading, watching soccer and basketball. A fairly new hobby was woodworking, turning out coat trees and little boxes that he gifted to friends. And friends he did have - thanks to having the biggest heart and a very sociable nature. He also enjoyed, the last two years, joining a crew of like-minded souls building wheelchair ramps with Volunteers of America.

Wayne is survived by his wife Judi, sister Nancy Graf in Aurora, brother Frank

in Cañon City, brother Allan in Wisconsin, numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family. A celebration of his life may be held at a later date. Memorial donations can be made to Volunteers of America, 405 Canyon Ave., Fort Collins 80521.

Tribute Wall

NS

“ Wayne was always a bright light, every time I saw him. He was always friendly and had lots of smiles. He loved being outdoors and sharing his time up at his family's cabin. He was the brother of my best friend, and I know that she and her family will miss him so very much. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to his family and friends. Rest in peace, Niki

Niki Stevenson - October 24, 2025 at 01:37 AM

AJ

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Allan & Jan - October 08, 2025 at 04:39 PM

“It’s hard to believe my brother-in-law, Wayne, is gone. In my mind he was always a healthy, energetic, full-of-life man who would live to be a hundred. We never know when God will take us home. Wayne definitely lived life to the fullest and was a great example to follow. Here are some memories.

I was always amazed of the many years Wayne raised funds for the MS foundation by riding his bicycle for many miles (routes were from 25 to 150 miles) for their annual fund raising drives. I am especially proud that Wayne, through his participation, helped to contribute funds for the research on MS, a disease my 2nd cousin (on my father’s side) now has.

Another memory that ties my family history, Thompsons, with Wayne is that my Uncle Les Thompson worked at US West/Qwest the same time Wayne did. They even knew each other. I always found that a great example of the cliché, “Small world”.

It meant a lot that Wayne & Judi came to see our newborns soon after they were born. For our oldest, Anna, it was a few weeks after she was born. For our twins, Jenni & Robbie, Wayne & Judi visited while I & the twins were still in the hospital.

Glad we had some holiday & birthday gatherings that Wayne would attend. Just his presence showed how he believed in the importance of family.

Another time that showed his belief in family was when Wayne came & spent the night with my family, coming from his home in Ft Collins to our home in Centennial, while we were all waiting for Allan’s return home. It took a lot of compassion and courage on Wayne’s part to follow through as the oldest brother for his youngest brother.

Wayne was one of Allan’s groomsmen at our wedding, and was one of the ushers for both of our daughter’s weddings. I’m proud that we

all carried on the tradition of including family in important ceremonies.

Happy to hear that Wayne gave his grand-nephew, Joey, a homemade treasure box on Joey's recent visit to the Mt Evans (PC – Mt Bluesky) cabin. Truly a box to be treasured.

Your birthday, the Fourth of July, will never be the same again, Wayne. However, it will now bring fond memories of your playful, vibrant spirit.

*Sister-in-law,
Jan T Brown*

Jan - October 08, 2025 at 01:09 PM

AL

“ Wayne was my oldest brother - being 7-years older than me. One of my earliest memories of a brother-and-brother “activity” was putting on a new roof on our parents house. Wayne was 16-years old and was able to rent a pickup truck to haul the new asphalt shingles. I helped install the new roof over the existing shingles. We placed the scrap shingles in the back of the pickup truck and drove to the local dump off of County Line Road. Once there, we had a blast throwing individual shingle pieces from the back of the truck into the expanse of the dump. Our fun ended when a dump employee came by and told us to stop because we might hurt other customers if a flying shingle would hit someone. Needless to say, we still had a lot of fun after working so hard to install the new roof.

Yet another memory of Wayne was just after he graduated from high school. He already was accepted to go to college at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. The summer before college, he had a job to help drive a vehicle from the Denver area all the way to Alaska. Once they arrived safely, he got a construction-type job, I think working on oil pipelines. After completing 4-years of college, he chose to stay in Fort Collins where he lived his entire life. My other siblings also went to CSU as I (eventually) did. I am grateful for both Wayne and Judi for helping me find a great place to rent for the last 3-years of my college education.

Wayne and I both found a passion in telecommunications. After I graduated from CSU as an Electrical Engineer, I worked for AT&T.../...Avaya. We would discuss industry trends and were never working in competitive markets. He knew this industry well as he transitioned to Network Engineer.

You will be missed big brother. You were one-of-a-kind.

Youngest brother,
Allan Brown

Allan - October 08, 2025 at 01:04 PM

JD

“ A few more photos to share of Uncle Wayne. Love you Uncle Wayne! Rest in Peace



Jenni Dehmlow - October 01, 2025 at 09:48 PM

JD

“ Some photos that showcase Uncle Wayne embracing life. He will be deeply missed. Love you Uncle Wayne.



Jenni Dehmlow - September 30, 2025 at 12:05 AM

JE

“ Uncle Wayne embraced life with a positive attitude and I loved seeing his love for life. I have many memories with him. I remember watching the flames flicker with Uncle Wayne and Zane one year. Pondering the wonders of life and sharing stories. Many of his 4th of July birthdays being celebrated with all of us with a pound cake decorated like a flag topped with strawberries, blueberries, and whipped cream! And then so many truly special memories with Uncle Wayne at the cabin! Quality time walking together, soaking up the beauty of nature, and how special the cabin truly is. The beauty that the cabin contains inside and out and the fact that it is all shared with family. Bonding with him over chacos. He was a bit more dedicated to wearing them year round with socks. He took the time to share joy, laughter, and peace. Embracing the simple things in life. I loved sharing garden harvests at many cabin picnics and garden stories with him and seeing Bobby bond with him and getting to hear and share vw bus stories with him. He brought his true personality with him wherever he went and embraced the fun of life. His camera was apart of who he was and captured so many cherished memories. I am so grateful to have had such a wonderful uncle and to have shared so many special memories. Love you Uncle Wayne.

Jenni - September 28, 2025 at 11:55 PM

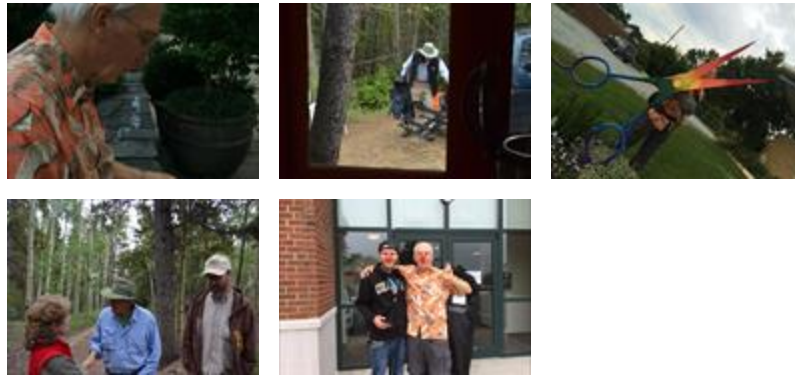
BD

“ I was given the privilege of gaining two incredible uncles five years ago when they both gave me their blessing and I became a part of their family. I thought I made a promise that day to the most beautiful wonderful amazing woman in the world, knowing she came with family. In that moment the connection was forever made. Not just to Jenni, but her incredible family. I call Uncle Wayne my uncle, because he is and will be forever. His gentle stride. His love for family. His way of acceptance, trust, honesty and love that naturally comes when you look in his caring eyes and tells you that you are important and special. That, I will never forget. Five years is a second yet a lifetime knowing Uncle Wayne. He will be missed but never forgotten as we forever in our hearts. I'm so very grateful and fortunate to have had that second in a lifetime. Love you Uncle Wayne.

Bobby Dehmlow - September 28, 2025 at 11:52 PM

FB

“ some photos of Wayne over a few years



frank brown - September 25, 2025 at 12:13 AM

KH

“ I worked with Wayne for many years. Always willing to help and go above and beyond. Not only was he a great coworker but also a friend. Most of all he was a very positive, kind, caring and compassionate individual.

Kathy Henggeler - September 24, 2025 at 10:09 AM

ZG

“ I will never forget my time with Uncle Wayne. One of my fondest memories is our overnight hike up by Lake Edith—sleeping under the stars, talking about life, and creating a memory I will carry forever.

I'll miss the way he greeted everyone with his signature “yooo hooo.” It became his catchphrase, because as soon as you heard those words, you knew it was him. I always admired how he could talk to anyone—whether a stranger or a friend—his warmth made it feel like you had known him your whole life. That gift was just one of the many qualities that made him so special.

I love you so much, Uncle Wayne. You will be deeply missed, but always remembered.

Zane Graf - September 21, 2025 at 08:29 PM

NG

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Nancy Graf - September 20, 2025 at 06:12 PM

RY

“ Wayne and I first met around 1990 when he worked in Telecom and was the phone switch technician for our new facility on Sharp Point drive. He'd show up and happily solve any issues and teach me the parts I needed to know. Since then he and I have run into each other at various places around town. He made an effort to search me out at Tour De Fat to see each year's costume. I will miss his contagious happiness around town and at the Sagittarian Birthday Party.

RedLion York - September 20, 2025 at 04:18 PM

FB

“ I grew up with Wayne as my big brother. We each loved the family cabin and after we installed the wood-burning stove about 20 years ago, our appreciation of the warmth from fire grew along with our love for each other. Wayne and I would sit, sometimes for hours, and watch the embers in the stove. The large glass door was perfect for this sport. The flames sometimes reached high and at other times gently danced around the coals. We could eat popcorn and talk about whatever topic or topics came to mind. I recall one time when Wayne expressed amazement on how much energy was stored within a piece of wood. You could not see it or imagine it simply by looking at the small logs that were once part of a large tree. Yet, once the wood caught fire, a beautiful scene unfolded before us. I will cherish this memory with my dear big brother. I love you, Wayne.

frank brown - September 20, 2025 at 12:17 AM

VD

“ Wayne was a great friend I met at work in 1989. Over the years we worked many late nights together. He had a tool for every need and was always there when you needed help.
Some of my favorite memories were hiking to the top of Longs Peak and backpacking across Rocky Mountain National Park.
I will miss him, and I am so thankful he was a part of my life.
Vince Drolet

Vince Drolet - September 19, 2025 at 02:13 PM

DS

“ I had the pleasure of working with Wayne at the City. I was on the "receiving help" side of our work relay. I was always very appreciative of Wayne's help and the warmth and kindness he brought with him. He was a delightful person.

Dennis Sumner - September 18, 2025 at 11:28 PM

KM

“ My uncle was the kind of person who lit up every room he walked into — always smiling, always ready with a story, a laugh, or a kind word. His warmth and spirit were infectious, and you couldn’t help but feel better just being around him. He had a deep love for the outdoors — whether tending to his garden, going for a walk, or simply enjoying nature’s quiet beauty, he found joy in the simple things. But above all, he loved people. He cherished time spent with family and friends, and he made everyone feel like they belonged.

Kelly May - September 18, 2025 at 10:57 PM

JH

“ What a beautiful man. He emitted warmth, love, patience and light. I will miss running in to him now and then as I have these past decades. My heart goes out to you, Judi, his family and friends. He was truly a gem. I am so sad. With love and condolences. Jill Oesterle Hultin

Jill Oesterle Hultin - September 18, 2025 at 03:32 PM

AD

“ Wayne’s warm smile and boundless joy for life were truly contagious, leaving an imprint on me that will never fade. As a kid, I remember him hiking alongside our family, radiating pure happiness and great love for adventure. Before I left Fort Collins, we all spent a night camping beneath Horsetooth Rock—laughing because he had hauled a bunch of his garden’s fresh veggies. I savored the fresh greens after hiking. Those moments, filled with laughter and light, remind me to carry forward the same joy and zest for life that Wayne so effortlessly embodied. His great, beaming smile will forever hold a special place in my heart, and the memories we shared will always be deeply cherished.

Adrienne Drolet - September 17, 2025 at 10:40 PM

BH

“ Wayne came to volunteer building ramps and walker steps with us other guys at Volunteers of America a few years ago and became, quickly, a very valuable helper and good friend. I enjoyed being around him and we💎💎💎ll miss his presence and his valuable contribution a lot. Gone far too soon, rest in peace my friend.

Bill Hughes - September 17, 2025 at 04:02 PM

NG

“ I cannot imagine my life without my brother. Wayne's vibrant personality and love of life is an encouragement to me. Life is what we make it and Wayne made it memorable. He liked gardening, doing projects, and could fix anything. What I really miss most is talking to Wayne. He always had such good advice and focused on positive thoughts. He showed kindness towards others with uplifting words or actions. In short, Wayne made my life better. He gave me courage when I needed it and reminded me what loyalty really means. Wayne, you will always be my brother and forever in my heart.

Your loving sister...Nancy Graf

May you rest in peace until we meet again.

Nancy Graf - September 17, 2025 at 03:22 PM

CK

“ Wayne, this neighborhood will not be the same without you.



Caroline Krumm - September 17, 2025 at 01:58 PM

DW

“ Wayne's enthusiasm for bringing joy to others was strengthened every time I was with him. When in a public place like, the Farmers Market, bike trail, Tour deFat, or even his backyard, he seemed to bring a smile to everyone. Wayne- you left this earth to soon.

Dee Woodcock - September 17, 2025 at 11:28 AM