



Homer "Ray" Watson

August 18, 1944 - March 21, 2026

Homer 'Ray' Watson, 81, went to be with his Lord and Saviour, Saturday, March 21, 2026, surrounded by his wife and two daughters.

Born August 18, 1944, to Homer and Ruth Watson in Bakersfield, California, Ray grew up surrounded by grandparents, cousins, and siblings. While the family business included growing cotton, ranching, and raising Quarter Horses, rodeo was at the heart of the family.

In 1957, the family moved to the Mount Crest Ranch in Hilt, California, and Ray attended Yreka High School, graduating in 1962. During his high school years, he was a standout athlete in rodeo, track and field, and basketball - a sport he would continue to play competitively for years in Men's City League. After graduation, Ray continued his bull riding career in both the California Cowboys Association (CCA, now CCPRA) and the Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA, now PRCA), earning his share of championships, buckles, and saddles.

In 1962, Ray spotted the love of his life, Robin Dais, crossing the street between the school and the high school gym. He promised himself he would marry her one day, and in 1964, he did. They welcomed their first daughter, Cyndi, in 1965 and soon moved to Redding, where Ray worked for Pettibone Construction. The family later returned to Yreka to raise their family, welcoming their second daughter, Stacie, in 1970.

After hanging up his bull rope in 1971, Ray remained active in the rodeo arena for many years, competing in team roping and serving as a judge for the

CCPRA, as well as junior and open rodeos.

Ray dedicated over 30 years to the Siskiyou County Public Works Road Department, where he was a respected Supervisor for two Districts, known for his kind leadership and commitment to his crew. His dedication was clear- whenever crews were out plowing snow, Ray was there alongside them, not returning to the shop until the last plow crew was finished. Ray knew the roads of Siskiyou County so well that he continued to provide directions from the passenger seat well into his battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Ray retired from the Public Works Department in 2005 and, like many cowboys, picked up a set of golf clubs. As with all his athletic pursuits, Ray aimed to excel, spending hours practicing his short game-pitching in the backyard and putting in the living room. He enjoyed countless rounds with his wife Robin, family, and many golf buddies as a member of the Men's Club at Shasta Valley Golf Club (affectionately known as "The Pasture").

In retirement, Ray also became one of the first volunteer drivers for the Fairchild Medical Center Auxiliary Patient Transport Van. He and Robin also loved to travel to their favorite destination: Bandon, Oregon.

Ray is survived by his wife of 61 years, Robin (Dais); daughters Cyndi Fitzgerald (the late Buck), of Palo Cedro, Stacie Maynard (David), of Mooresville, NC; brothers Ronnie (Jerilyn) of Central Point, OR, Gerald (Sue) of Keenesburg, CO, Michael (Paula) of Georgetown, TX, Arthur (Joanie) of Loma Rica, CA; sisters Karen Ramirez of Bakersfield, CA, Susie Watson (the late Gus) of Calipatria, CA; brother-in-law Robert Dais (Karen) of Bella Vista; sister-in-law Lani Milovich (Allen) of Yreka; grandchildren: Jordan Fitzgerald, Jenna Orloff (Danny), Jaxon Fitzgerald (Jenna Lea), Cody Maynard and Travis Maynard; great granddaughters: Emersyn, Henley, and Stella; a great grandson Augustus arriving in August, and many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Ruth Watson.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 1:00 PM at the Miners Inn Convention Center in Yreka, California. Food and fellowship will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Ray's memory to Madrone

Hospice House (Yreka) or The Alzheimer's Association.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 2. 1:00 PM (PT)

Miners Inn Convention Center
238 N. Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *My sympathies & caring wishes to you & all of your family.
Sincerely, Judy L Foster*

Judy L Foster - May 15 at 08:29 PM

DL

“ *My sincere condolences to the family. You're in my prayers.*

DaveSuzanne Liddick - April 13 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *Love that picture of him. He always had a kind word, a genuine smile, and was just one of the nicest people you would ever meet. Much love to you all ❤️*

Gina Andriese - April 13 at 12:00 AM

GL

“ *Robin so sorry for your loss*

Gary L. Longmore - April 11 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ *Robin so sorry to hear of your husband's passing.*

Nancy Harris Miller - April 11 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ *Robin, I'm so sorry for your loss. My condolences to you and the family.*

Glenn Aletha Wilson - April 11 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ Im so sorry to hear. Sending you love!

Linda Lee - April 11 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Oh Susie my heart breaks for you. Take care my friend. 🙏💔😔

Connie Lewis - April 10 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Robin and girls, that fella with the sweet imp smile is now a very happy, content soul.

May Peace be with you 🙏💙. Love Maggie

Maggie Harris - April 10 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ Robin, so sorry for your loss I know Ray will always be remembered. The both of you around the rodeo crowd. Lots of memories.

Helen Blackston - April 10 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ So sorry for your loss. Ray will always be remembered as such a nice guy. Thinking of his family and holding you in a large hug 🤗

Diane Reinhart - April 10 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ So sorry for your loss. Such a nice man, he will be missed!!!

Cheryl Miller - April 10 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ So sorry to hear this. Many memories of watching Ray be a handsome cowboy and team roping. We will miss him. Thinking of you Robin and your family. Love you!!!

Marsha Chambers - April 10 at 12:00 AM

HW

“ So very sorry for your loss. Ray was such a good person, boss , friend. Ray is in his happy place riding bulls in Heaven.

Herb Willis - April 10 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Sorry for the loss of your dad, Cyndi. A difficult time for your family for sure.

Shelly Gwilt - April 10 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Susie, I'm so sorry to hear the loss of your brother!❤️
Give Robin my condolences, please.
Now, your hubs, Gus! My heart hurts for you my friend!

Lynn Anderson - April 10 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Tons of hugs..

Rosie Scott - April 10 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Very sad news.💔Sincere condolences to Robin, Cyndi and Stacie and families. Ray was a friend for almost 70 years.❤️

Charlene Broce - April 10 at 12:00 AM

EG

“ *What sad news. He was a great guy. So sorry for your loss Robin and family.* ”

Earlene Gibson - April 10 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ *Most sincere condolences.* ”

Rose Harris - April 10 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *My deepest condolences to the Watson family.* 🙏 ”

Ronald Mathus - April 10 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *My sincere and deepest condolences to you Robin and all of the Watson family* ❤️🙏 ”

Marsha Farley - April 10 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *My heartfelt condolences to you Robin and the Watson families* 🙏 ”



Marsha Farley - April 10 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Girdner Funeral Chapel* ”

A Memorial Tree was planted for Homer "Ray" Watson - April 10 at 12:00 AM

DT

“❤️❤️

Donna Kleaver Thompson - April 10 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ *Condolences to the family*

Sandy Harmon Johnson - April 10 at 12:00 AM

SY

“ *Deepest condolences to the family* ❤️

Sheri Young - April 10 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ *Gosh where to start..I remember his parents, and siblings. But I remember he and Ronnie comming to James arena to rope. I remember how soft spoken he was, but he and Robin had two of the cutest little girls that were so good and all they wanted to do was ride. I remember him riding bulls, he was so awesome. I feel the absence of him for you girls and Robin. I love you guys. I hope I can come to celebrate his life. What a great cowboy.*

Robin Manton-Monchamp - April 10 at 12:00 AM

CR

*I also remember Ray coming to the ropings at James arena (my step-father Bill and my mom, Kathleen). Watched Ray rodeo back in the day. Nice man and wonderful family.
Claudia Baroni Robinson*

Claudia Baroni Robinson - April 30 at 02:15 PM