

# “THE RON BALL MEMORIAL AWARD”

## THE WYOMING WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION’S HIGHEST HONOR



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**Each** year since 2003, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation has presented what is known as the “Ron Ball Memorial Award”, in recognition of one of the Chapter’s original five founders.

Ron Ball was a rancher and outfitter from the Big Piney area who served as either President or Vice-President of Wyoming FNAWS (at that time) for 11 of our first 14 years of existence. Ron was a big man, whose presence and contributions were also huge. Ron and his family were dedicated volunteers who organized many early Chapter events, meetings, and live/silent auctions. Wording on the Ron Ball Award speaks highly of the type of individual Ron was, and what he did for wild sheep in Wyoming. This award reads:

**“Presented Annually, In Recognition of Outstanding Achievement Toward the Betterment of Wyoming’s Bighorn Sheep”**

I was fortunate enough to be the first recipient of this special recognition in 2003, and this award holds a special spot on my wall. As you can see, over the past 17 years, a virtual “Who’s Who” of dedicated individuals have been recognized by the Wyoming Chapter for their contributions to Wyoming’s bighorn sheep.

The Ron Ball Memorial Award is presented during the annual June banquet. Nominations may be made by the WY-WSF Board of Directors and/or past award recipients; selection of the recipient is made by the past winners. So, if WY-WSF members know of someone they would like to see nominated for this award, please notify one of the current Board of Directors, or one of the past recipients.

None of us do what we do for wild sheep to receive credit or recognition. However, there are some individuals that do so much, and help lead the way, that taking a moment to look back, helps all of us move forward!

- |      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 2003 | Kevin Hurley          |
| 2004 | Jim Collins           |
| 2005 | Gov. Dave Freudenthal |
| 2006 | Melanie Woolever      |
| 2007 | Steve Kilpatrick      |
| 2008 | Terry Cleveland       |
| 2009 | Gary Butler           |
| 2010 | Fritz Meyer           |
| 2011 | Cole Benton           |
| 2012 | Dennis Claman         |
| 2013 | Bob Sundeen           |
| 2014 | Tom Easterly (D)      |
| 2015 | Doug McWhirter        |
| 2016 | Lynn Stewart          |
| 2017 | Freddie Goetz         |
| 2018 | Ryan Amundson         |
| 2019 | Joni Miller           |
| 2020 | Dean DiJenno          |
| 2021 | Jerry Galles          |
| 2022 | Jack Welch            |
| 2023 | Hank Edwards          |
| 2024 | Mike Porter           |
| 2025 | Kurt Eisenach         |

