

Linda Mitchell Davis Obituary



Linda Mitchell Davis passed away at sunrise, February 18th, 2024, in her home on the CS ranch. Born July 11, 1930, the only daughter of Albert Knell Mitchell and Julia Sundt Mitchell, she was raised in Harding County, NM on the Tequesquite and Bell Ranches.

During her childhood, Linda Elizabeth Mitchell, endured challenges born of the dust bowl, the Great Depression, WWII, and the devastating losses of her mother, 2 brothers and her grandparents. From these hard lessons, Linda grew up to value family, community, land, and livestock. She was always happiest on the back of a good sorrel horse working Hereford cattle.

After studies at Cornell University, Linda married Les Davis in 1953 and moved to the CS Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. Throughout their lives together, Les credited Linda as the heart and soul of the family operation. “She gets things done,” he once said, “When she arrived at the ranch with her gear, the CS turned for the better.” Together, they raised their 6 children who grew up working on the ranch, learning to respect and love all that comes with a ranching life. Her family remained a source of pride, joy, and gratitude throughout her life.

Linda found tremendous support from her extended CS family; Jiggs Porter, Cale and Mildred Wheatley, Annie Sanchez, Margret Sanchez, and John Gonzales, to name just a few. Their children, spouses and other good hands were equally respected and valued by Linda.

Linda, an exceptional stockwoman, was honored by numerous agricultural and cattle associations, including being awarded New Mexico Cattleman of the Year (1990); National Golden Spur Award (1992); Woman of the Year in Service to Southwest Agriculture (1993). In 1995 she was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas and in 2000 she was inducted, with her husband Les, into the Hall of Great Westerners. She was also the first representative from New Mexico to the National Beef Board.

“MRS BEEF” - Linda’s license plate for the last 30 years, says it all; a title that she delighted in displaying wherever she went.

Linda’s interests and enthusiasm ranged far beyond the agricultural realm. A connoisseur of western art and literature, Linda served for decades on the board of The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, which honored her with a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022. Always interested in medicine, she served on the board of Minors Colfax Medical Center in Raton, NM. At the age of 70, she became an EMT and was a devoted member of the Cimarron Volunteer Ambulance for well over a decade. A crew that became a second family to her. Along with community service, Linda was dedicated to the improvement and growth of educational institutions in New Mexico. She served on the Boards of Highland University Foundation and New Mexico State University Foundation.

Linda is survived by her six children and spouses - Warren and Mary Davis, Julia and David Stafford, Randy Davis, Kirk and Priscilla Davis, Bruce and Trina Davis, and Kimberly Barmann; eight grandchildren and spouses- Ryan Davis, Christiaan Davis, Walter and Amy Davis, Sara and Ross Perschbacher, Ben and Rachel Davis, John Davis, Leslie and Brandon Blakney and Kelly Barmann; and nine great grandchildren. Also, her beloved nieces and nephews- Scooter and Jeanette Mitchell, Tom and Karen Mitchell, Terry Mitchell, and Lyn & Billy Ray and their children and grandchildren.

Linda deeply appreciated every card, flower arrangement, and visit she received. Her family thanks all who have reached out to console and comfort us during this time. We treasure the stories and memories that have been shared. We are grateful to the staff of the Minors Colfax Medical Center who cared for Linda and Robin Pilley, a gifted Hospice nurse.

Linda’s memorial service will be held at the CS Headquarters later this spring when the weather is warm and the grass is green. Date and time to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to The Friends of Cimarron Volunteer Ambulance. Thank you.

