

Lost Resources

John David Graham died Monday, December 26, 2011 in Plano, Texas. David was born to Claude and Ruth Graham on November 23, 1944 in Socorro, New Mexico. He attended rural schools in Datil and Magdalena, New Mexico and graduated from the Ag College at New Mexico State University in 1968. He married Midge (York) in 1965 and soon after they began their careers together in education. Along the way they had 3 children, Kevin, Wendy, and Stacy. David taught vocational agriculture at Des Moines High School for four and a half years before spending a year at the New Mexico Department of Education as a vocational agriculture specialist/state supervisor. In August of 1973, he started his career with the Cooperative Extension Service as the Agricultural Agent in Union County. He was assigned a white Blazer that he drove the wheels off and never washed once; it can still be found at the Union County Extension office. From his first day on the job David was absolutely committed to his county and its people, agriculture education, 4-H and FFA, cattle ranching and range management. Through the years he committed considerable time and resources to research noxious weeds, range pests, and pesticide management. He co-authored many scientific papers working collaboratively with research specialists at New Mexico State University and the United States Department of Agriculture Poisonous Plants Lab in Logan, Utah. David was a lifelong SRM member. He was particularly active at the state level serving on the Board of Directors and as President. David's commitment to youth education was exhibited by his commitment to the High School Youth Forum. Every year he served as Youth Committee Chair half of the Forum participants could be expected to reside in Union County. This highlights a unique skill David had, the power of persuasion. It was difficult to tell David "no" because he was not afraid to call a spade a spade. That is probably why he ended up as the Nominations Committee Chair. The NM section can thank David for years of candidates "willing" to run for office for the good of the order. David's humor, no-nonsense approach, passion for agriculture, commitment to youth education, and formerly white truck will be missed by all, especially those whose lives he impacted in New Mexico.

MEMORIAL: The family requests memorial donations be made to the Union County Fair Board. Memorial donations can be sent to Union County Extension Office, c/o Tommy Jantz, PO Box 428, Clayton, NM 88415.