



## Lewis E. "Lew" Davis

September 13, 1937 - August 21, 2025

Lewis E. "Lew" Davis passed away August 21, 2025, at the age of 87. He was a man whose life was defined by service, enterprise, and an enduring love of broadcasting. At his core, Lew Davis was a Radio Man who started his career as a 16-year-old DJ with a great voice at WCJO radio in Jackson.

As a 1955 graduate of Jackson High School, he served proudly as Drum Major of the Jackson High School Band before entering the United States Army. Following his military service, Lew earned a degree in Vocational Agriculture from The Ohio State University, where he served as an Alternate Drum Major for the OSU Marching Band.

After graduation, Lew taught Vocational Agriculture in Mount Vernon, Ohio, before his passion for communications drew him back into broadcasting as Farm Director at WRFD radio in Columbus. He later served as Director of Public Relations for Monsanto in St. Louis, Missouri, and eventually with the Federal Land Bank in Louisville, Kentucky. It was during his tenure with the Land Bank that Lew combined his agricultural expertise with his love of radio to create the Ohio Farm Network, producing daily farm reports that quickly grew to a wide network of radio affiliates across

Ohio.

Lew's calling as a broadcaster became permanent in 1970 when he acquired WKOV-AM 1330 in Wellston, marking the beginning of Jackson County Broadcasting Inc. He expanded the company the following year with WKOV-FM 96.7, added WCJO-FM 97.7 in 1993, and launched WYRO-FM 98.7 in 1994. Under his leadership, Jackson County Broadcasting grew into a respected four-station group that brought a wide variety of formats to southeastern Ohio. As his company grew, one thing never changed - Lew was most at home behind a microphone, where his familiar voice became a trusted presence for thousands of listeners.

After selling Jackson County Broadcasting, Lew's entrepreneurial spirit carried him into television as he founded Cable Channel 15 in Jackson, where he hosted the Cable Channel 15 Morning Show with his daughter Jennifer for many years. Whether on the airwaves or cable television, whether popular or not, Lew's opinions were never in doubt.

Over the course of a long career in business, he also invested in and owned several other local ventures that included restaurants, retail establishments and the Markay Theatre. Additionally, Lew's passion for vintage automobiles was almost as strong as his passion for business. He loved collecting, traveling and showing his cars on the national circuit where he earned a number of top honors.

Lew was preceded in death by his parents, William and Virginia Long Davis, and his son, Jeffrey T.

Davis. He is survived by his wife, Janet Davis, daughter Jennifer (Jamey) Ratcliff; son Michael Davis (partner Kelly Wiley); daughter in law Kelly (Rob) Waugh; his sister, Mary

(Joseph) Melley,  
granddaughters Alexandra (Rorke) Hardy and Christina (Aaron) Barnhardt;  
grandsons Derek (Courtney) Davis and Trent Davis; and five great-  
grandchildren.

A United States Army veteran, a serial entrepreneur, and a broadcaster at heart, Lew Davis leaves behind a legacy of determination, innovation, and community. He will be remembered for his voice, his vision, and the many lives he touched across southeastern Ohio and beyond.

Calling hours for Lewis E. "Lew" Davis will be Monday, August 25th from Noon until 2:00pm at the  
Mayhew Brown Funeral Home in Jackson with Pastor John Pelletier presiding.  
Funeral services will  
immediately follow the calling hours with interment in Fairmount Cemetery.

# Cemetery Details

## Fairmount Cemetery

12 Fairmount St.  
JACKSON, OH 45640

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 25. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home  
135 Broadway Street  
Jackson, OH 45640  
(740) 286-4161

## Funeral Service

AUG 25. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mayhew-Brown Funeral Home  
135 Broadway Street  
Jackson, OH 45640  
(740) 286-4161

# Tribute Wall

EP

“ *Michael and Jennifer, you and your families are in my prayers. The community has lost a great one*

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**Einon Plummer** - August 24, 2025 at 10:03 AM



“ *May the love of God surround you and your family during this difficult time,  
May you come to know that the love of God is with you always,  
  
May your memories of Lewis E. Davis, give you peace, comfort and strength...*

*Rest now in the arms of our Lord your mission on earth is complete.  
I thank you for your service to our Country and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten...*

*My thoughts  
and prayers to the family of ....*

*US Army Veteran, Lewis E. Davis, is “A True American Hero” God Bless†*

*† Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13 †*

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**Cheryl Skinner, Tri-state Military Museum** - August 23, 2025 at 08:43 AM

YQ

“ I got to know Lew when he was my boss in the 80's. I really liked him and we spoke often after I left.  
He loved yo tease my mom about politics, and she loved giving it right back lol  
He will be missed.

Yolanda Queen

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Yolanda Queen - August 22, 2025 at 07:12 PM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lewis E. "Lew" Davis.



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August 22, 2025 at 06:48 PM

JC

“ It is the end of an era with the passing of Lew Davis. I have many memories of listening to him. Some of the many highlights included broadcasting events at the Fair including the Livestock sale and harness racing. I remember he, John and Don Souders having a great time with bathtub races and the Wellston centennial. Probably, what I miss the most is election night coverage. He went through his analysis as each precinct came in and gave view of where the election was heading. You didn't know who won until Lew called it. My condolences, thank you for sharing him with us all those years. He is missed

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John Carey - August 22, 2025 at 06:47 PM



“ So sorry about your loss Lew was loved by many and will be missed by many my Mother would not want to miss his radio program you always had a good conversation with him when you saw him out so sorry Jennifer and Janet he was a great man



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**Vicki Coy** - August 22, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ Ron Ross lit a candle in memory of Lewis E. "Lew" Davis



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**Ron Ross** - August 22, 2025 at 02:36 PM