

## Charles H. "Chuck" Brown III

By Julianne Couch  
Alumnews Editor

### Fast Facts:

**EDUCATION:** '58, Eastern Wyoming College; BS, '62, Business Administration, UW

**OCCUPATION:** Owner, C.H. Brown Co., equipment finance

### SELECTED

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Board of Directors, Denver branch of Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank; Past President and Board member, UWAA; Distinguished Alumnus, Eastern Wyoming College and UW College of Business

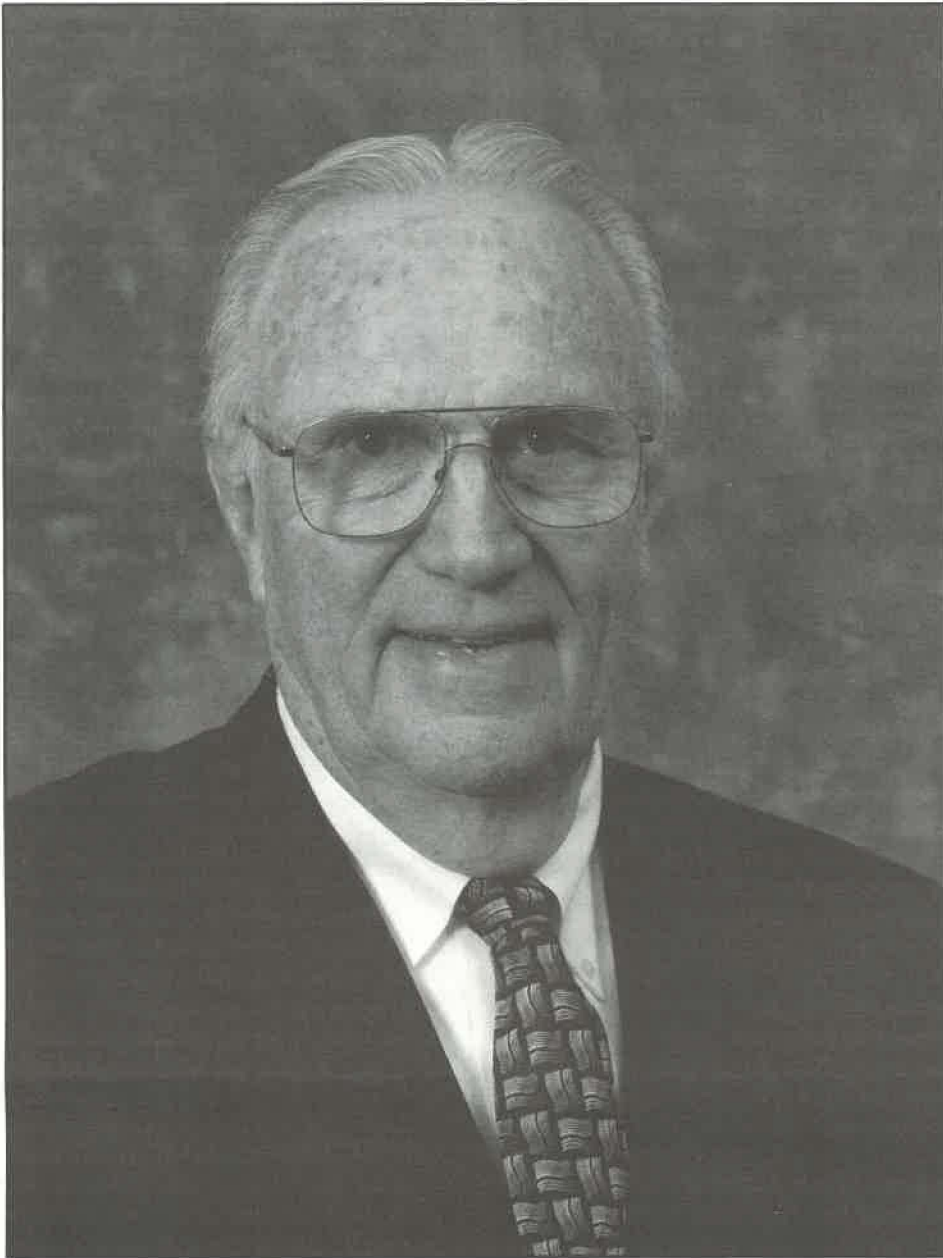
**FAMILY:** Wife, Katie (Kugland) Brown; daughters, Brenda (Brown) Strickholm and Kristi Kay Brown

**OTHER INTERESTS:** Flew privately for 35 years, promised when he turned 70 he'd retire from active flying

Chuck Brown has called Wheatland, Wyo., home for most of his life, and many folks there consider him family. In fact, many there actually are his family, especially those who can be found working at the C.H. Brown Co.

This business is one of several family enterprises over the years that found Brown working alongside his wife and their children in one combination or another. The latest iteration began in 1995, when the finance arm of C.H. Brown Co. was formed. It is a heavy equipment finance firm funding heavy equipment leases and contracts primarily for the agricultural, construction and transportation industries. Brown is the overall manager. His wife Katie (Kugland) Brown (BA '61), works on the accounting operations of the firm. Their daughter Brenda (Brown) Strickholm (BS '84) is vice-president and oversees office administration and human resources. Their other daughter, Kristi Brown (BS '86, BS '87) who resides in Jackson, Wyo., is also one of the owners and as a CPA assists in many of the accounting decisions.

Getting to this level of business



Chuck Brown, Distinguished Alumnus

success has been the result of being an "Energizer bunny," as Brown's family variously describes him. His roles as entrepreneur and family man fill many hours, but Brown has also volunteered with numerous organizations. He has been on the board of directors of the Mountain States Hardware and Equipment Dealers Association, the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission, the Wyoming Transportation (formerly Highway) Commission, and Platte County Memorial Hospital, to name a few.

Brown reflects that sometimes his schedule has been a challenge. "I hope I've been a good husband and father because we're clearly a family-oriented and faith-believing family. There were times it would have been easier to stay home and read a good book instead of going to a highway meeting, but that's just how I've done it." Although his calendar has cleared a bit in recent

"Mr. Brown is an effective bridge, bringing community and local business input and views from Wyoming to the Federal Reserve's policy deliberations in Washington, D.C."

In addition to his other activities, Brown's involvement with UW has been substantial over the years. He was appointed in 2005 to the Board of Trustees and has served as its president. UW president Tom Buchanan said: "Chuck has a deep respect for education and the foundation it provides for all of life's pursuits. He is genuinely concerned about the future of Wyoming and its young people."

Brown was a young man himself when he became involved with UW. He was a high school student in Torrington who visited Laramie for sports activities. He wasn't an athlete—"I was just as clumsy then as I am now" he joked—but came to see state high school basketball championships and watch the Cowboys play football in War Memorial Stadium. Brown attended UW for a year then joined the military, serving with the Army Security Agency and was stationed in Korea. After his military service, he attended Eastern Wyoming College (then called Goshen County Community College) in Torrington, graduating in 1958. Then when he resumed his studies in Laramie, he found his visits to the Wyoming Union paid off "handsomely." That's where he met Katie, his "bride to be," who was the reigning homecoming queen.

He said he and Katie never considered leaving Wyoming after they were married in 1961. "We enjoy the rural setting. We got married, our family came along, we never wanted to live anyplace else."

Brown said of all his life's accomplishments, he considers it a source of "pride and pleasure" that he, his wife and their two daughters are an "all-UW family."

Brown believes the work ethic and interest in public service he's had over the years are attributable to the influence of his parents, Charlie and Kathleen Brown. He said he was "honored and humbled" to be named a UW Distinguished Alumnus. Showing why he is known for his self-deprecating sense of humor, he added: "They must have had a short candidate pool this year." ❧

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PRESIDENT TOM BUCHANAN

years, Brown said he plans to serve on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Denver branch, until his term expires.

According to Thomas M. Hoenig, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City,