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## **REMEMBERING DOUG ANDRUS JR. FATHER, BUSINESSMAN, COMMUNITY SERVANT**

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### **A Grand History of Trucking**

Doug Andrus Distributing had its beginning in 1937 during a difficult period near the end of the Great Depression. Doug Sr. found employment difficult to sustain in that environment, and being the owner of a 1935 two-ton Chevy truck, and vowing he would never allow anyone to lay him off again, he put that Chevy truck to work as he and a brother-in-law hauled coal along an 80-mile dirt road for delivery from a mine in Wyoming, and his business was born. The fleet grew gradually with Andrus' first operating loan of \$25 and a regular schedule of driving grain to Utah, returning with a load of coal, later adding a trade of flour for salt.

Andrus' trucks regularly fueled at Slim Olsen's in Salt Lake City, but Andrus' long hours too often found the station closed when needed. This would be a disaster for some, but Andrus was so highly respected and trusted, he was given his own key to Olsen's pump, would fuel up, fill in the slip and put it in a box. Trust and integrity were the hallmarks of the fledgling business and remain so today. Family members report that the best thing their father left them was his good name.

### **A Family Business**

Doug and his brother Heber had both begun their work with the company as truck drivers, learning the business from the road up. When Doug Sr. and his wife left the business to serve

focus on building the business remained. It was a necessity if they were to pay off the purchase price.

The brothers determined their guiding principles from that moment, vowing that any steps taken for the business would be agreed on completely by both, and developed a company mission "to provide quality, personalized service to our customers and a secure working environment to our employees."

This dedication soon saw the fleet grow to 50 trucks, which seemed enormous, but today has expanded to 270 trucks and 470 trailers. Over 400 full-time employees depend upon Andrus Distributing for their living, and trucks cover 30 million miles throughout the US and Western Canada in one year. The total annual revenue in 1975 was one million dollars, today it is 70 million with an additional 40 million in related companies that were added as good business practices dictated.

### **A Life of Service**

Doug and Deanna, parents of 13 children, met after Doug's return from a two-year LDS mission to New York and New Jersey. Their first date, interestingly, was arranged by Doug's dad. Unfortunately, the second date was several months later, but it took. They married soon after in the Logan LDS temple.



Doug Andrus Jr. President/CEO of Doug Andrus Distributing LLC.  
Passed away September 12, 2010.

The BYU Management Society, celebrating moral and ethical leadership in business practices, awarded Doug with the prestigious Granite Pillar Award.

Serving in an LDS bishopric, then as a counselor to two stake presidents, Doug was called as a stake president himself. It was during this service that he was diagnosed with cancer. Later, with his cancer in remission, he was called to be the president of the Las Vegas West Mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

After serving 20 months on that mission, Doug's cancer returned and he settled temporarily in Utah to receive painful and exhausting stem cell treatment, which added another two years to his life. He and Deanna then returned to Idaho Falls where they served as temple officiators and Doug as a sealer in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple until his final submission to the cancer that took his life in September of 2010.

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on two different missions for their church, the brothers purchased the business and began a second generation of operational leadership in 1975.

The Andrus men have diesel in their veins, and, as with farmers, when the family gets together, they talk and breath trucking. It is their passion, and it shows.

Doug Jr. and his new bride Deanna moved into an eight-foot by 44-foot trailer house on the business property, in the midst of the trucks and office building. It was moved temporarily to Provo, Utah as Doug finished his schooling, but then right back to the truck yard. They lived in that home until they were expecting their fourth child, and then finally settled into a home in Osgood where they stayed for most of the next three decades.

Heber was just 16 when he took his first delivery to St. George, Utah with his mother at his side. Their truck had no accommodations for sleeping, so they put their sleeping bags on top of the load, first wheat and then salt, and that was the last time his mom was his copilot.

The family home on the truck lot became the business office when Doug Sr. moved to his farm, the son's bedrooms then became their respective offices, and the

From that time they have been great examples of church and community service, regardless of the demands of a growing family business and a second endeavor of investment in apartment rentals.

A diagnosis of cancer precipitated Doug's early retirement from the business, but didn't end his dedication to helping others.

Doug and Heber personally, and Andrus Distributing as a business, have always generously supported the Boy Scouts of America, with Doug serving on the Grand Teton Council and being the recipient of the Silver Beaver Award.

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