

## James A. Helzer

**1946-2008**



James A. Helzer, 61, of Cheyenne died March 7 at Davis Hospice Center after a long battle with cancer.

He was born Sept. 11, 1946, in Cheyenne, son of H. Albert and Bernadette Helzer. He graduated from Cheyenne Central High School in 1964 and received his Bachelor of Arts in American History with honors from Yale University in 1968.

He was married March 15, 1969, in Dwight Chapel at Yale University to Mary Elizabeth Clark of Hamden, Conn.

In 1968, he founded Unicover Corporation and served as its chairman, president and CEO for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Helzer was a former director of the Denver Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. He was a member of the University of Wyoming International Board of Advisors, the University of Wyoming College of Health Sciences Advisory Board and the Civilian Advisory Committee at F.E. Warren Air Force Base. He was appointed by Gov. Dave Freudenthal to the Wyoming Coinage Advisory Committee for the Wyoming Quarter Dollar.

He served as a director of the First National Bank and Trust Company of Wyoming (1977-1991), and was one of the founders, and second chairman and CEO of Cheyenne LEADS, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Corporation for Economic Development. He was a member and a past director of the Cheyenne Rotary Club, and a member and past president of the Young Men's Literary Club of Cheyenne. He served as a director of DePaul Hospital (1980-1986) and as president of its Board of Trustees (1984-1986), and was president of the Wyoming Congressional Awards Council (1983-1985).

Mr. Helzer was a member of the Yale University Development Board, chairman of the Yale College Alumni Schools Committee for Wyoming and an associate fellow of Silliman College in Yale University. He was awarded the Silliman Cup in 1968 and again in 2000 for outstanding contributions to Silliman College, where the James A. Helzer '68 Fund continues to provide funding for the enhancement of student life.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Clark Helzer; his daughter, Katherine Clark Helzer of Chicago; his son, John Clark Helzer of Cheyenne; and his sister-in-law, Barbara Clark of Tampa, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his mother in 1987 and his father in 1992.

Contributions may be made to St. Joseph's Children's Home, P.O. Box 1117, Torrington, WY 82240, or to Davis Hospice Center of Cheyenne.