



Bill Daniels

Thayer Tutt Sportsman Award

The Thayer Tutt Sportsman Award is presented annually by the Colorado Springs Sports Corporation to an individual in recognition of exceptional philanthropic and community sports support, as well as on the national sports stage.

Bill Daniels, one of the great business visionaries of the twentieth century, achieved success by working hard, acting with ethics and integrity, and treating everyone with respect and fairness.

Born in Colorado in 1920, Bill's family moved to Hobbs, New Mexico, where he attended the New Mexico Military Institute. During this time, Bill earned the title of New Mexico's Golden Gloves welterweight boxing champion. He went on to prove himself a fine naval officer and fearless combat pilot in World War II.

Bill began his business career in Casper, Wyoming, where he learned that many small towns did not have access to TV. As a result, he built Casper's first cable system in 1952. One of the earliest pioneers in cable TV, Bill owned hundreds of systems across the country. His company, Daniels & Associates, operated these properties and brokered many deals that shaped the industry.

An avid sports fan, Bill was one of the first in cable to generate sports programming, clearing the way for today's regional sports networks. He sponsored professional boxers, was a founder of the United States Football League and an owner of professional sports teams, including the Utah Stars and the Los Angeles Lakers.

The respect Bill earned for his achievements in business was matched by the admiration generated by his philanthropy. When Bill passed away in 2000, his estate transferred to the Daniels Fund, which continues Bill's legacy of compassion and generosity by providing grants to nonprofit organizations, and scholarships to students, in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.