

# Randy Weaver, Who Confronted U.S. Agents at Ruby Ridge, Dies at 74

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By Clay Risen

May 13, 2022

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The 1992 standoff left his wife, his son and a U.S. marshal dead, and made him a reluctant hero of the anti-government far right.



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Randy Weaver, whose 1992 standoff against federal agents at a remote site in northern Idaho called Ruby Ridge left his son, his wife and a U.S. marshal dead and made him a hero to anti-government activists on the far right, died on Wednesday. He was 74.

His daughter Sara Weaver announced his death on Facebook but did not say where he died or give the cause.

Mr. Weaver was wanted by the government for trying to sell a pair of illegal sawed-off shotguns to a federal informant within the Aryan Nations, a white supremacist movement. The group's compound lay not far from Ruby Ridge, and Mr. Weaver and his family often socialized with its members and shared at least some of their beliefs, white separatism and anti-government conspiracy theories among them. He also held to an apocalyptic form of Christianity.

He was arrested in late 1990 and released on bail in early 1991. After he failed to appear for a court hearing — he later said that he had been given the wrong date — federal marshals placed his cabin under surveillance, plotting a way to apprehend him peacefully.

Mr. Weaver was a former Green Beret who neighbors said kept more than a dozen firearms in his cabin, leaving marshals to assume that he was likely to respond violently to any arrest attempt.

On Aug. 21, 1992, a team of marshals entered the Weaver property to check on motion-activated cameras that they had placed around the cabin. When the family dog found them and started to bark, Mr. Weaver took his 14-year-old son, Samuel, and a family friend, Kevin Harris, to investigate.

As they approached, one of the agents shot the dog. What happened next remains in dispute but a firefight ensued killing Samuel and a marshal William Deegan.