Obituaries

Samuel Owen

1989-2024

Salt Lake City, UT—Samuel Bean Owen was an adoring father whose brilliant analyst's mind and diplomat's dexterity made him the rare person just about everyone in City Hall could love. He died under the weight of an emotional suffering beyond all of his efforts, and those of his loved ones, to turn back. He was 34 years old.

After his son was born, in 2017, the life Sam built was in every way for Adlai. When Sam and Adlai's mom, Naomi, separated, the boy shared time between them. In Salt Lake City, where he went to school, the house he lived in was more Adlai's than Sam's—its walls papered in Adlai's precocious art, its floors an epic hazard of Legos. Sam saw it as his first job to make way for Adlai's ceaseless imagination. Even as it rolled from one realm to the next—Batman to Spider-Man, still photography to homemade movies—the world they crafted never ran out of room.

Sam would ferry Adlai several hours south for time with his mom, often camping nearby with his dogs to save a few dollars. Back in Salt Lake, on schooldays, he'd pick up a son who smiled from ear to ear at the sight of his father, and couldn't wait to be home. The weekend before they died, Sam took Adlai on a closing-day ski outing with Sam's mother and sister. They said they'd never felt closer to Sam.

From the time he was small, Sam's love for wild places led him to wander with his family and friends: hiking the Needles, deep in Canyonlands National Park, and biking the White Rim Road; canoeing at Shoshone Lake in backcountry Yellowstone; backpacking in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; camping outside Capitol Reef's dinosaur-age Waterpocket Fold, where he and his mom had locked in plans to take Adlai this very weekend.

He was legend on four different 50-milers in Boy Scouts, where, after depositing his backpack at the destination, he would hike back down over and over to carry the packs of friends. He did this twice in the High Uintas, including at King's Peak, and at the Windrivers' Cirque of the Towers. For the final scout adventure, in Dark Canyon Wilderness, his scoutmaster asked Sam to be the one to hike back out with the group traveling 17 miles to bring in a rescue chopper for a badly injured boy.

Sam started on the staff of the Salt Lake City Council as an intern, in 2017, and quickly unveiled a savant's mastery of civic esoterica—water rights and inland ports. Within months he was assigned primary staff responsibility for public utility policy. He climbed to the level of policy analysis, but, as for most of us, his job description didn't quite capture it. Sam's quiet, respectful and collaborative nature was appreciated by both branches of government. When the council office might otherwise reach an impasse with the mayor's staff on one issue or another, Sam would, more often than not, see the start of a positive way through.

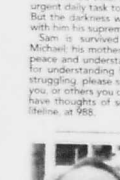
He got his education at the University of Utah, first with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and then in a master's program in public administration, which he pursued under an unyielding load of work and parenting. Sam had been an uneven student, but his intellect was never in question: Early in high school, he wrote an essay that his English teacher was convinced could only be plagiarized. The teacher consulted the rest of the department, and they decided the way to determine if Sam's work had been original was to set up a monitored in-class exercise. Deciding the matter, his second essay was better than the first. That was not an isolated incident: His unprepared riff on "Crime and Punishment" once set a new standard, a teacher said, for 15-minute oral presentations.

Sam's compassion and sensitivity shared roots with enormous pain. He struggled with substance use from his teenage years, paired with intense anxiety and other challenges to his mental health. Sam's friends, acquaintances, colleagues sometimes knew about these hardships, and sometimes not. But they knew that his kindness was constant, and that what he wanted most was to be the best father and friend he could to Adlai. He'd been sober for an extended time, and both of Sam's parents had made it their urgent daily task to ease his burdens, to find him the right help. But the darkness was deft and strong. It swept Sam away, and with him his supremely beloved Adlai.

Sam is survived by his twin sister, Hannah; his brother, Michael; his mother, Becky; and his father, Dave. They hope for peace and understanding for other suffering families, and beg for understanding from those who surround them. If you are struggling, please seek help; know that there are others around you, or others you can reach, who will never, ever give up. If you have thoughts of self-harm, call the national suicide and crisis lifeline at 988.

Joseph Patrick McGovern

1941 - 2024



Holladay, UT—On May 20, 2024, the New York Yankees lost a fervent fan from the state of Utah. Joseph Patrick McGovern, age 83, born in Brooklyn, NY, passed away. He leaves behind his sister Rose, his nieces Tara and Rose, cousins June, Ken, Michelle, Nicholas, Michael, and Whitney. Joe grew up in New York going to Yankee games and calculating the odds for his favorite players—

which taught him math at a very young age. He served his country during the Vietnam War, and it was while in the Army that he developed his love for European history, especially WWII. The history bug bit deep, and after the Army, he went on to study at the University of Washington.

Joe could fix anything and wound up working for Eaton Kenway. He traveled the country ensuring large automation systems stayed up and running. His dry sense of humor and ability to solve problems made him a favorite at manufacturing sites. Although he enjoyed his time on the road, he was most at home with his books and a baseball game playing in the background or cooking steaks on the barbecue for friends and family.

No formal services will be held. Please honor Joe by learning a good joke, reading a book, or going to a baseball game. And if you need a laugh, remember Joe's response when asked what skill he picked up in the Army: "I learned how to wash a Jeep."

Patsy Ann Coats Dumas

1936 ~ 2024

Our sweet, spirited mom, Patsy Dumas, passed away on the morning of Saturday, May 18, 2024. Born on December 28, 1936, to Ralph and Glenneth Coats in Midvale, Utah, Patsy married her sweetheart, James Dumas on February 14, 1956. They were married 64 years. Patsy was a librarian at Riverside Elementary for 20 years. More importantly, she was a loving, dedicated mother. An amazing quilter, she created works of art in cloth and thread. Her children and grandchildren all have cozy quilts to cuddle in for warmth. Patsy was passionate and committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and spent her life in the service of Heavenly Father.

Preceded in death by her husband Jim Dumas, Patsy is survived by five children, Curtis (Linda), Cory (Jerri), Clint (Treasure), Connie (Robert), and Cassie (Golden); eighteen grandchildren; and twenty-five great-grandchildren. Also preceded in death by siblings LaMar (Patricia) Coats and Shirley (Eldon) Butterfield.

A viewing will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, from 10:00-10:45 a.m. Funeral services to follow at 11:00 a.m. at Goff Mortuary, 8090 S. State Street. Interment will take place at the Midvale City Cemetery.

Oscar Wood Moyle IV

1972 ~ 2024

Wood Moyle, a literal and figurative giant in the community, died unexpectedly on May 19, 2024 from surgical complications. He was 52 years old.

Immediately recognizable for his tall stature, big smile, and booming laugh, Wood worked tirelessly to guide organizations that touched countless lives in Utah. He served on the boards of the Crimson Club, the Natural History Museum of Utah, Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School, and Westminster University. He was a director of the Edward L. Burton Foundation and a director and chair of the R. Harold Burton Foundation. Wood's steady, enthusiastic, thoughtful, and strategic leadership elevated the boards on which he served and his fellow board members alike. His positive presence, deep caring, stellar insights, unparalleled work ethic, quick wit, and sense of humor will be sorely missed.

Natural History Museum of Utah Executive Director, Jason Cryan, reflected, "Wood has long been an integral part of the Museum community. He was instrumental in the campaign for NHMU's beautiful home, the Rio Tinto Center." Wood chaired NHMU's annual Lecture Series Planning Committee, helping to identify, evaluate, and invite the incredible speakers who bring their scientific expertise to enrich the Utah community.

Rowland Hall Head of School, Mick Gee, observed, "In addition to being an engaged and active parent in his children's lives, Wood's unwavering commitment to Rowland Hall has been immeasurable." Over his 11-year tenure on the Board of Trustees, he chaired the Nominating Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee and served as the Headmaster's Council while also contributing significantly to the Governance Task Force.

Wood was passionate about helping the underserved and marginalized citizens in our community. He believed that education changes the future for children and should be available to everyone, regardless of financial circumstances. R. Harold Burton Foundation Executive Director, Steve Morgan, said of Wood, "He loved his family and was grateful for his heritage. His grandfather and grandmother, who created the foundation in 1985, would be so proud of his thoughtful stewardship and efforts to honor their legacy." During his tenure, the foundation awarded over 3,000 grants to hundreds of Utah nonprofit organizations, improving the lives of thousands of children and adults.

He valued service to our country, supported programs for veterans, and led the campaign to create The Center for Veteran and Military Services at Westminster. Westminster President, Beth Dobkin, commented, "Wood was instrumental in supporting Westminster's transition from college to university and the Board of Trustees' statement and action plan regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. His warmth and humor extended across his leadership roles. Wood will be deeply missed and his contributions to Westminster will be remembered for years to come."

Wood was born in Salt Lake City on February 5, 1972 to Oscar Wood Moyle III and Judith Covey Burton Moyle. After graduating from Rowland Hall, Wood attended Lewis & Clark College, where he played center for the Pioneers' basketball team and obtained his bachelor's degree in history. He obtained his MBA from The Bill and Vieve Gore School of Business at Westminster.

Wood was an avid student, and persuasive debater of history, politics, and philosophy. He read voraciously and assembled an impressive collection of books on military history. He enjoyed Star Wars films, strategy games, Diet Coke, and Utah and Michigan football. He was a consummate family man and cherished spending time with his son, wife, and stepdaughter. Some of Wood's favorite times were spent with his family cheering on his son at his basketball and soccer games, building Legos, solving jigsaw puzzles, and reading bedtime stories with voices for each character.

Wood is survived by his wife, Becca; son, Oscar "Ocky" Wood Moyle V; stepdaughter, Emma Elizabeth Limping; sister, Rebecca Burton Moyle (Tyler Lange); nieces and nephew, Isabella, Anna Beatrice, and George Lange; "brother," Noel Edward Hunt; and mother, Judith Covey Burton Moyle.

A celebration of Wood's outstanding life will be held at the Natural History Museum of Utah on June 3, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. The Moyle family suggests contributions in Wood's honor to the Natural History Museum Utah or Westminster University.

Steven A. Huish

"Most of all, he loved the Fall" 1952 - 2024

Steven Alan Huish, age 72, passed away at his home in Indian Wells, California on May 9th. Steven was born on February 5, 1952 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Alan Eugene and Dorothy Bay Huish, where he was raised with his three siblings. His childhood was full of adventure; he was a true outdoorsman and loved to ski and spend time in the mountains. He also had a love of the arts, especially theater.

After graduating from Highland High School, he went on to University of Utah and Boise State University. He began his professional career in Sales with Huish Distributing. It was there where he met his wife of almost 45 years, Elizabeth (Dede) Huish, in 1974. They married in August 1979.

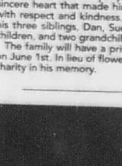
They had two children: (Steven) Paul and (Kathryn) Katie, and moved to Carmel, California as a young family in 1985. Steven was a spirited entrepreneur. He successfully and passionately ran Zantman Art Galleries for many years, owning and operating four galleries by 2000 in Carmel-by-the-Sea, San Francisco, Palm Desert, and Sun Valley. Exploring the globe to discover new artists for the galleries, he created lasting memories with his family throughout his journeys. Some of his favorite destinations included New York City, Italy, France, and Hawaii, where he spent his honeymoon and returned many times with his family.

In 2005, Steven and his wife Dede moved to their residence in Ketchum, Idaho where they enjoyed many lasting friendships. In his later years, he fulfilled his interests in travel, fine arts, the outdoors, golf, fishing, jazz, and spending time with his beloved chocolate labs. As his adventures continued, his family grew; Katie married Brett Hubert in 2010, and Paul married Melissa (Missy) in 2013. Shortly after, Steven became a grandfather to Hayden and Madeline. He loved being 'Papa' to the grandchildren. He continued to be the loving patriarch, planning and coordinating memorable family vacations. Most importantly, Steven cherished his family. He demonstrated unparalleled generosity and empathy, always helping others in any way that he could. Steven's charisma, story-telling, and quirky sense of humor attracted all kinds of people. It was truly his caring, giving and sincere heart that made him so endeared. He treated everyone with respect and kindness. He is survived by his mother, Drue, his three siblings, Dan, Sue, and John, as well as his wife, two children, and two grandchildren.

The family will have a private burial and memorial celebration on June 1st. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to your favorite charity in his memory.

William Dean Sanders

1939 - 2024



William Dean Sanders (1939 – 2024) passed away May 10, 2024. He was the child of Lucyle Dean Sanders and William L. Sanders. He was born in Salt Lake City as the youngest of two children. He was the husband of Sandra Gayle Hadley Sanders. They had one child, Mark David Sanders. Dean worked for many years at Worker's Compensation Fund. He enjoyed traveling, reading, and took immense satisfaction with volunteer work, especially with Adopt-A-Native-Elder. He was a friend of Bill. He was a lifelong University of Utah fan. He is survived by his loving wife Sandy, his son Mark (Ronna) and his sister, Beverly. A graveside service will be held at Memorial Redwood Cemetery on June 3, 2024, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests a donation be made to Adopt-A-Native-Elder. Go Utes!

Kenneth Kay Gardner

1949 ~ 2024

Herriman, Utah—Kenneth Kay Gardner passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his five children on the evening of May 16, 2024. Born in Ogden, Utah, Kenny was the fourth child and eldest son of Kenneth Woodrow Gardner and Norda Finlinson Gardner.

In his youth, Kenny was literally the All-American boy. A gifted athlete, Kenny regularly won age-group swimming titles in Utah as a pre-teen. When he reached high school, Kenny was an All-State first baseman for the Clearfield High School baseball team, an All-State quarterback for the football team, and was named an All-American in leading Clearfield's basketball team to its only state title in 1967. Kenny's achievements in high school were not limited to the athletic field, however, as he served in student government, sang in the choir, and was Clearfield's Sterling Scholar in math his senior year. Kenny's Gardner and Finlinson cousins were a huge influence on him during his formative years and they remained important to him his entire life.

After being recruited by dozens of colleges to play either baseball, football, or basketball, Kenny decided to follow in the footsteps of his hero, his uncle Vern Gardner, and play basketball for the University of Utah Running Utes. Kenny was an All-Conference selection in the Western Athletic Conference his junior year and was the conference's only unanimous selection to the All-Conference team his senior year. His team was special and was the first to play in the Jon M. Huntsman Special Events Center (now the Huntsman Center) and to have their games called by legendary broadcaster Bill Marcroft, who remained a lifelong friend of Kenny's until his passing in 2020. To this day, Kenny is one of only four players in University of Utah basketball history to average more than ten points and ten rebounds per game.

Following his collegiate career, Kenny was drafted by the Phoenix Suns but an injury in the final days of training camp prevented him from making the team. Being cut by the Suns led Kenny to one of the greatest adventures of his life: joining Jim McGregor's traveling team that promoted basketball around the world. Kenny spent the fall of 1973 traveling with the team in Mexico and South America to share the sport of basketball and to promote the team's sponsor, Gillette. In early 1972, Kenny found himself traveling through Sweden for six weeks, crammed into a VW bus with six other American players. Their travels in the "Magic Bus" eventually took them further south into Europe, where the team exhibition games ended in a tiny French coastal town called Berck. The directors of the team, Berck Basket Club, were impressed by Kenny's skill and offered him a contract on the spot.

Kenny's signing with Berck began a seven-year career in French basketball, interrupted briefly by a stint with the ABA's Utah Stars during the team's final season before folding in 1976. In Kenny's three seasons with Berck, the team won two French Championships and advanced to the semi-finals of the Euro Cup. Kenny was lauded at the end of both the 1973 and 1974 French basketball seasons as the Best Foreign Player in France. Soon after the 1974 season, Kenny signed with Nice Basket Club where he played for three seasons.

It was, perhaps, during this European adventure that Kenny developed one of his most charming and memorable qualities: the ability to talk to anyone, anywhere and to make them feel like the most important person in the room. Kenny made friends and left an indelible impression with people wherever he went. Kenny became fluent in French and enjoyed striking up a conversation with any francophone he came across for the rest of his life. He met with ambassadors, signed an autograph at the request of the Prince of Monaco, hung with Ringo Starr in Monte Carlo, and, later, was the personal driver for International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Whether meeting with people at the highest levels of world politics or with dear friends who were not famous in the world's eyes, Kenny's friendship was sincerely felt and treasured by all.

Following his playing career, Kenny did the sensible thing: he got a job with Western Air Lines, later acquired by Delta Air Lines, where he was a fixture on the ramp in Salt Lake City for nearly 20 years.

Kenny made many life-long friends during his time at Delta, where his presence in the breakroom always made for fun times, lots of laughter, and totally-safe-but-memorable antics among his colleagues.

Despite his memorable achievements on the basketball court, Kenny's greatest source of joy in his life was his posterity. Kenny is the father of five children whom he coached, mentored, advised, and encouraged for as long as his health allowed. Beyond his own kids, Kenny memorably coached basketball teams that won AAU championships in Utah and also spent a year coaching the undefeated Freshman basketball team at East High school during the 1989-90 season. Boys who played for him remember Kenny as a coach who always encouraged them, always taught them at a high level, and who helped them feel like the greatest players in the world. A prolific rebounder during his playing days, he could often be heard yelling for his boys to "Go get a rebound!" from the stands as he watched them play at East High and at the University of Idaho. His presence was similarly felt in the stands of East High volleyball matches as he cheered on his daughter, Liz.

Kenny's tenderness towards his three daughters was touching to witness from such a strong, tough man. He had sole custody for most of his two youngest daughters' childhoods and saw those girls become outstanding students and athletes at Granger High School. Kenny always taught his children the importance of education and his five children went on to attend college at the University of Utah, the University of Idaho, BYU, Utah State University, Clarendon College, Boston University, Trinity University, and the University of Minnesota.

The last fifteen years of Kenny's life were met with serious health challenges that reduced his mobility. The last ten years of his life were truly a miraculous gift made possible by a heart transplant. Through a divinely organized coincidence, Kenny learned that his heart donor was formerly a BYU football player, Nick Longshore. Nick is a personal hero to Kenny and his family and his gift extended Kenny's life long enough for him to see the weddings of his two youngest children and the births of five additional grandchildren. Kenny's family is forever grateful to Nick, to his family, and to the doctors and care providers who have shepherded Kenny's care over the last decade plus. Through several news stories and minidocumentaries about Kenny and Nick's touching story, Kenny was able to spend some of the last years of his life as an ambassador for the miraculous gift of organ donation, raising awareness for the importance of "Checking Yes!" on driver's license applications. Kenny and his family would like to thank the journalists and news organizations involved in getting the message of organ donation out to the public.

Kenny was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the last months of his life saw him turn his thoughts to God in a special way. He mentioned repeatedly that he could feel the strength of the prayers that so many offered on his behalf. He also requested several Priesthood blessings during this time and learned many things about the love that God has for His children. During the last hours of his life, Kenny requested one last Priesthood blessing to help him feel peace as he crossed to the other side of the veil.

Kenny was a larger-than-life personality whose absence will be felt by all who knew him. Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth W. and Norda F. Gardner, by his sisters Nancy (Ron) Safsten and Geneal (Clair) Sorensen, and by his son, Kenneth Gentry Gardner. He is survived by his sister Bonnie (Daryl) Budd, his brothers Terry and Steven (Maryna) Gardner, by Mary Peterson, the mother of his four oldest children, by Nancy Lile, the mother of his two youngest children, and by his children Nate (Michelle), Josh (Carina), Liz (Tony) Jaggi, Baily (Stratos) Sklavounos, Taylor (R.J.) Donaldson, and by fifteen grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Golden slumbers will now fill Kenny's eyes as he lays down the weight that he carried for a long time. We love you, Dad. God be with you till we meet again.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Kenny's life at a viewing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Mountain View Mortuary, 3115 E. Bengal Blvd., Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121. Funeral services will follow the next day on May 29, 2024 at the Willow Creek 1st Ward Chapel located at 2115 E. Sublette Pl., Sandy, UT 84093. A viewing will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 that morning with funeral services following at 11:00 a.m. Internment will follow at Memorial Mountain View Cemetery. Please visit memorialutah.com to view the broadcast of the services.

If you would like to remember and honor Kenny, one of the best ways to do that is by becoming an organ donor when you renew your driver's license.

POOR