Obituaries

Gary Donald Ellefsen

1955-2024/In Loving Memory

Salt Lake City, UT—Gary Donald Ellefsen, Salt Lake City, died April 25, 2024 after a short illness. He was 68.

Gary was an entrepreneur, inventor, and a wizard with all things electrical. His mother in earlier years described him as sensitive, caring, artistic, intelligent and a perfectionist at heart. He was all of these and more.

He was born Nov. 1, 1955, to Donald H. and Kathleen Ellefsen. With his birth, Gary became a member of Phase 1 of the Ellefsen clan. When his parents launched Phase 2, he and his older sister greeted five additional siblings, who were born in quick succession. Gary and his older sister immediately ran herd on their younger siblings – many of whom were a decade younger.

When not helping his parents with family chores, Gary served as a role model to his brother and sisters showing them the ins and outs of navigating childhood. He explored the neighborhood with friends. He and his buddies spent days building treehouses in the Shady Lake area near his Holladay home.

He eventually tried his hand at building his own treehouse in his mother's cherished cherry tree. He removed his first solo construction project in its entirety at his mother's gentle but insistent urging. Rather than destroying his creation, he decided it would remain forever, buried in a 12-foot-wide hole below his mother's soon-to-be garden.

When not experimenting with building, Gary loved going on family trips. He fondly remembered one of the trips taken in the family's old blue station wagon to visit family friends in Seattle, Wash. Other family trips he remembered were visits to see Sea Lion Caves and the Redwood Forest, both in California.

Gary spent much of his childhood and adolescent years honing his business skills and work ethic working alongside his dad in the yard and on special days when he accompanied his dad on the job.

Upon graduating from Cottonwood High School in 1974, he met Charie Lyn Peterson. They were married Dec. 31, 1977. Gary was soon thrilled to become the father of a son, Jessy, and later, a daughter, Kandice. As his children grew and married, Gary was blessed with seven grandchildren: three from Jessy and four from Kandice. Gary and Charie split in May 17, 1996.

Gary initially explored working in drafting because of his love for architecture and design. It didn't take him long to realize he would much rather follow in his dad's footsteps. At the age of 20, Gary started his own business: Ellefsen Electrical.

He landed contracts for Brackman Brothers Bagels (now known as Einstein's Bagels) and Flower Patch. He used his electrical talents in theaters, movie sets and to wire home entertainment systems.

Gary quickly earned his Master's Electrician designation, which came in handy when he became a General Generator dealer 12 years ago. As a General dealer, he designed electrical systems for homes and installed much-needed generator systems. He quickly became the largest dealer in the Wasatch Front, calling himself "Generator Gary."

While still working as an electrician, Gary's life once again changed. Gary was introduced to Mary Stevens by mutual friends. They began dating and fell in love. The two decided in 1995 that it was time to move in together. One bonus of the move was the introduction of Mary's children Brett and Jessica to his life. Mary and Gary were committed at this point to live as husband and wife. Gary relished becoming the father of the two youngsters. The two said he instilled within them his core values of honesty and an incredible work ethic. His new stepson and stepdaughter regarded him as an "unbreakable man of integrity."

Life with his new family threw a new wrinkle into his life in 2000. Mary received her second cancer diagnosis and was told she would only survive for a year. Gary made the decision to take a year off work so he could research the best to help Mary. His cancer research led him to another career choice: becoming a licensed herbalist to help Mary with her battle. He changed Mary's diet and created nutraceutical supplements as part of Mary's diet. The research led to the creation of a new business: Dr. Chi LLC. Following Gary's diet regimen for a year, Mary received a clean bill of health at her yearly cancer checkup. The doctor found no sign of cancer and designated that she was now in remission.

Mary was not the only relative who benefitted from Gary's big heart. Gary served as caregiver and father figure for his grandson, Nathan. Nathan, whom Gary referred to as Bean, was Gary's constant companion as a youngster and benefitted from Gary's wisdom. In recent years, Gary has served as a mentor to his younger brother Eric and has dished out fatherly advice to Brett and Jessica.

Survivors include wife, Mary; son, Jessy (Jamie) Jordan; daughter, Kandice (Paul) Allen; stepson, Brett Stevens; stepdaughter, Jessica Stevens; sisters, Terri (Allen) Swain, Lisa (Randy) Ellefsen, Joni Ellefsen, Suzanne (Michael) Wohlk; brother, Eric Ellefsen; brother-in-law, Rick Wredberg; 13 grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. His parents and sister Kathryn "Kat" Wrettberg preceded him in death.

Memorial services are scheduled May 31, 6 p.m. at Mountain Springs Community Church, 7136 S. 1700 East, Cottonwood Heights, Utah.

Chad Wardrop

July 17, 1953 - May 29, 2019 - 66 yrs old

Salt Lake City, UT—At the anniversary of his passing, let's take a moment to remember our dear brother son, father, and friend Chad Wardrop, who died after a steady decline from COPD related heart & lung issues on May 29, 2019 at the Tidewell Hospice House in Bradenton, Florida.

Chad (and his twin brother), were born to Calvin Lee & Dorothy Wardrop on July 17, 1953. He was the middle-brother of the notorious crew of five (5) Wardrop brothers from Holladay, Utah who all attended Olympus High.

Chad was a gentle soul and was always kind to everyone.

In 1978, Chad earned his Software Engineering degree in Phoenix, Arizona. He had many great engineering jobs as a Senior software Engineer at HP, also firms in Canandaigua, New York; Seattle, Washington, also Boulder, Colorado; and Atlanta, Georgia.

He loved music, (especially Jazz) and had a large collection of vinyl records/CDs of jazz musicians.

Chad married Alina in 2001, and they were blessed with a beautiful daughter, Sophia Wardrop. This was the happiest time of their lives when Sophia arrived. Chad had always wanted a family, and it miraculously happened! (even though Chad was in his 50s when she was born). Sophia was the light of his world, because she was always so upbeat & active, which made life really fun. She always was, (and still is now), the most important and beautiful person in the whole wide world to Chad.

Chad is preceded in death by his parents, and by his oldest brother Wade Wardrop. He is also survived by Sophia Wardrop (daughter) - Seattle, Washington, and his brothers and (their wives): Vicki Jones Wardrop (Wade's wife) - Saint George, Utah; Todd Wardrop (Brooke) - Holladay, Utah; Brett (Wardrop (Kathy) - Bountiful, Utah; and Lane Wardrop (Yolima) - Hernando, Florida

Annie Laurie M. Baker

May 13, 1933 - May 21, 2024

Heber City, UT—Annie Laurie McGregor Baker, a truly remarkable woman, passed away May 21, 2024, at the age of 91. She was surrounded by her family who will always love her dearly.

Annie Laurie was born to Lorenzo Watson McGregor and Minnie Hafen McGregor on May 13, 1933, in St. George, Utah. She was the oldest of three children with one brother and one sister. She felt a strong sense of responsibility for her siblings, ensuring she was always available and willing to help them. At a young age, she learned to handle difficulties with determination and grace. In so doing, she set a good example for many people, particularly her children. She was kind and compassionate, exceptionally hard-working, and devoted to her family. Annie Laurie married her lifelong sweetheart, Kenneth William Baker on June 12, 1953, in the St George LDS temple. Soon after, they moved to Hawaii while Ken served in the Army Band. Their first daughter, Barbara (Bobbi), was born there. Later they had two more children, Laurie and Brent (Butch).

Determination, perseverance, and passion could be used to describe Annie Laurie. Art was a particular passion of hers. She always had a sketchbook and pencil with her, sketching everything from dead trees to her grandchildren. These sketches are now treasures for her descendants. First, she painted with oils, then took up watercolor, always trying new things and working hard to do them well. She sold her first oil painting while attending Dixie College and never stopped painting. At age 50 she decided she wanted to learn to sculpt. She took sculpting classes and studied anatomy. When she became proficient with sculpting, she expanded into making porcelain dolls. Every stage from beginning to end was done personally by her. She did the sculpting, made her own molds, cleaned, fired, and painted them, finishing with designing, making patterns for, and sewing the clothing. Annie Laurie Dolls won many awards. She became well-known artist and was considered an expert in her field. Her greatest achievement, however, was being an incredible wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many. She lived her life with integrity and purpose.

Annie Laurie is survived by her three children, Barbara (Bobbi) St. Jeor, Laurie Balls Jensen (Jay), and Brent (Butch) Baker (Ginger); 11 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Preceding Annie Laurie in death are her husband, Kenneth W. Baker; parents, Lorenzo W. and Minnie McGregor; brother, Lorenzo (Mac) McGregor, Jr. (Kay); sister, Jerrie Romaney (Ray); two sons-in-law, Eldon C. St. Jeor and David McKay Balls; and one great-grandson, Jacob Hatch.

A visitation will be held in Heber City, Friday, May 31st from 10:00 to 10:45 am. A service will follow at 11:00 am. They will be held at the home of Brent and Ginger Baker, 2001 Hidden Creek Rd, Heber City, UT. The interment will be June 1st at 10:00 am at Tonaquint Cemetery in St. George, UT.

As Annie Laurie's family, we would like to offer our sincere love and gratitude to the Staff of Spring Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care, and Audrey Stembridge from Intermountain Hospice. Thank you for helping our mother, as well as us, with dignity and compassion.

Karen L. Holding

1948 - 2024

Taylorsville , UT—Our beautiful mother passed on May 20, 2024 after enduring the horrible effects of dementia.

Karen was born July 13, 1948 to Lucille Joyner and was raised in the Sugar House area. She attended East High School, graduating in 1966. She married her high school sweetheart Randy Holding June 24th, 1967.

Together they raised 3 daughters in Taylorsville. She started her career in assembly, and worked on Hellfire missiles up to her retirement. We considered her a rocket engineer.

Karen loved animals, a love she inherited from her own mother, and one she passed down to her daughters. There were always dogs & cats in the home. She unofficially adopted many strays, and pets that came but never left. She was a big supporter of the Humane Society and Best Friends animal sanctuary.

Karen loved to shop, and not just anywhere. She loved ZCMI, later known as Macy's. She always had a coupon and knew how to get the most for her money. She loved to spoil her children and grandchildren with school clothes, birthday and Christmas gifts or simply because she found a sale she couldn't pass up. Her style was impeccable and classy. Her daughters loved raiding her closet.

She loved traveling with Dad, enjoying many cruises and excursions throughout Utah and surrounding states. She continued traveling with relatives and friends after his passing, taking her dream trip to the East Coast. She was an avid golfer and spent many years playing on local golf leagues, up until 2021.

Karen is preceded in death by her loving husband Rand, mother Lucille, sister Ann & brother David. Survived by brother Keith (Michal) Joyner. 3 daughters- Stephanie (Will) Sweatfield, Tannia (Mike) Beckwith, Cynthia (Chris) Perkins, 15 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

A special thanks goes out to the caregivers who took care of our mother in the final months.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local Humane Society or animal shelter.

A viewing will be held on Sunday, June 2nd 2024, from 5-7 p.m. and on Monday, June 3rd 2024, from 10:00-10:45 a.m. Funeral services to follow at 11:00 a.m. at Wasatch Lawn Mortuary 3401 S Highland Dr in Millcreek. Interment will take place following the funeral.

Vicki Duersch

1948-2024

Clinton, UT—Vicki Duersch passed away on May 25, 2024 peacefully in her sleep.

She was born in Logan, Utah to Russell and Elaine Bateson and grew up in the Rose Park neighborhood of Salt Lake City. She attended West High School and Utah State University, and eventually graduated from Weber State University. She was married to Willie Duersch and together they had two daughters.

Vicki taught kindergarten and second grade for 23 years at Fisher Elementary, where she shared her love of reading with countless students.

She was a life-long Jeopardy fan and loved to play games, but especially loved Trivial Pursuit. She had many dear friends, and her calendar was always full of social events, including her book club, regular lunch dates, and girls' trips to visit friends all across the country.

Her sharp wit and low tolerance for b.s. made her an engaging, if not slightly intimidating person to be around. She had strong opinions and an even stronger love for the people around her. For Paul Newman her celebrity crush, and for her favorite band the Beatles.

She is survived by her husband William; her children Erika (Jack) Fontana, and Emily (Aaron) Aplin; her grandson Oliver; her siblings Cathy Bateson (Bob) Hough, Steve Bateson, and Jeanne (Douglas) Stewart, numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her two cats Rusty and Sierra. She is preceded in death by her parents and her granddaughter Eleanor Aplin. She also mourned the passing of her favorite restaurant El Matador several years ago.

We loved her so much and will miss her more than she could know. In her memory, everyone should have half a baked potato and no more. The family requests those who wish to express sympathy to consider making a donation to Planned Parenthood of Utah in Vicki's name.

Warren Lee Gilmour

1932 - 2023

Pahrump, NV—Warren Lee Gilmour
November 30, 1932 - November 25, 2023

Warren Lee Gilmour passed away in his home Saturday November 25th, 2023 surrounded by family. Passing just five days before his 91st birthday, Warren lived a full life.

Born in 1932, the second baby born in the new Kingfisher Hospital operated by his aunt Mary Gilmour, Warren grew up on the wheat farm of his parents, Glenn and Elizabeth Gilmour, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma with his siblings James Gilmour and Gladys Hopkins. Warren attended Washington Grade School, both Kingfisher Junior and High Schools graduating in 1950. He was active in the High school band, class government, and plays. That period was made most memorable by the yellow Model "T" Ford owned by he and neighbor Monroe Kottwitz and seen everywhere in town with a carload of friends.

The military draft ended the summer of '50 with a call which he answered by enlisting in the US Navy. He served just under four years on the USS LSMR 404 (Landing Ship Medium Rocket) including two tours to Korean waters where the ship participated in many coastal bombardment missions. Near the end of his enlistment he married his high school sweetheart Eleanor Burnett of Kingfisher, OK.

Upon discharge from the Navy in August 1954, the GI Bill offered the opportunity to attend Oklahoma A & M College (now Oklahoma State University) from which he was awarded a BS in Mechanical Engineering (1958) and a Master of Science (ME) in 1959.

His immediate hire upon graduation brought him and his growing family to the Lockheed Aircraft Company in Burbank, CA where he worked as a Structures Research Engineer working on advanced materials, and qualification tests on aircraft and missile components. After two years, he changed careers moving into the new Operations Research discipline studying the operational effectiveness of military systems, chiefly Army armed helicopters.

After Lockheed won the development contract for a new armed helicopter system, the AH-56A Cheyenne, he became Manager of the Rotary Wing Operations Research Department in 1969. In 1972 he joined the Lord Corporation in Erie, PA as head of Advance System Design. The group developed off-road vehicle elastomeric spring systems for trucks, as well as railroad cars, and performing tests to qualify the blade retention bearings for the Army UH-60.

Upon his return to Lockheed in 1974, he joined Lockheed's famed Skunk Works again in Operations Research working out mission performance requirements for the U-2 and SR-71 spy aircraft. In 1976 discussions with two cohorts, the radar signature reduction technical breakthrough was identified that led to the development of the F-117 Stealth fighter and was subsequently applied to all new US military weapons systems hence. His contribution is recognized on the basic concept patent.

As Division Manager, Operations Research, then, he led studies assessing the value of stealth in combat missions. The predictions made then for the F-117 Nighthawk were proven in Operation Desert Storm.

In 1979 he became Program Manager of a major stealth vehicle development, one of the earliest applications of the new stealth concepts. The program led to the formation of the Unmanned Aircraft Branch of the Lockheed California Co. to pursue a new line of business for the Corporation. The remainder of his career was engaged in management of several other classified stealth related programs until his retirement in 1992 with several projects still classified today.

Warren liked to say he learned most essential engineering, systems-analysis and problem-solving skills from his father (who also allowed him the freedom to explore & experiment on the farm), often commenting his father was one of the best engineers he knew.

After his marriage with Eleanor ended Warren married Lyn Myers of Knollwood, California. After his retirement from Lockheed in 1992, Warren and Lyn relocated to Sandy, Utah where property management became a second career. They had been active in the Lockheed Employees Ski Club in Burbank, CA as well the Newcomers Club of Salt Lake City. Retired Members Social Group (RMSG). They traveled extensively with many friends over the years. Warren loved to make and listen to music. Learning several instruments throughout his life, he found himself first in a small band while in the Navy, and later, in retirement, gathering friends and making a few CDs of themselves.

Warren was preceded in death by his first and second wives; Eleanor Gilmour Sasaki & Lyn Gilmour as well as his brother and sister-in-law, James and Patricia Gilmour, and their daughter Ann. He is survived by his three girls with Eleanor; Janice Gilmour of Pahrump, NV, Rebecca Lane (Michael), with grandchildren; James Lane (Sara) and Shannon Lane (Brae), & Kyle Lane of Colorado Springs, CO, and daughter Jamay Gilmour of Pahrump, NV along with Lyn's children; Keith Myers (Kris) of Simi Valley, CA with grandchildren; Derek Myers (Rachel), Stephanie Myers of Duluth, Georgia, David Myers with grandchildren; Kyle Myers (Nikki), Scott Myers, Lindsey Reese (Peter) of Salt Lake City, UT, and Lori Kennedy (Kevin), with grandchildren; Kassidy Beckstrand (Braeden), Brittan Ham (Angi) of Salt Lake City, UT as well many great-grandchildren. Warren is also survived by his sister Gladys Hopkins (John) of Kingfisher, OK as well as many nieces and nephews with extended family across Oklahoma and his niece- and nephew-in-law of Utah.

Quick to share any and all of his knowledge on a surprising array of subjects, Warren had an insatiable desire to learn, analyze, problem solve and share what he learned. A patient, forgiving and supportive listener, he made friends wherever he went. Warren was respected and appreciated by those who had the opportunity to meet him. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and family. Services will be held at the Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park at 3401 S. Highland, Millcreek, UT, on Saturday, June 1st, 2024 at 11:00 AM.

Nancy (Hiskey) Stewart

1954 ~ 2024

Denver, Co.—Nancy passed away on May 21, 2024, after fighting a courageous 12-year battle with C-DIFF (infection of the large intestine, colon). Her husband Rand was at her bedside, when she peacefully passed away.

Nancy is the daughter of Howard and Shirley Hiskey and grew up in the Glendale area of Salt Lake City. She graduated from Highland High School. She had a wonderful childhood and spent many happy days with her friends and family. She also enjoyed spending time along the Oregon Coast.

Nancy was blessed with the reacquaintance of Rand Stewart. In 1993 Nancy and Rand were married. Little did either of them know Rand would not only become her husband of 31 years, but during the years she was battling her illness he would become her Guardian Angel. Rand attended to her every need up to the day of her passing.

Nancy is survived by her husband Rand, her 3 brothers & sisters in law, John (Lynnette), Paul (Linda) & Mark (Angie). And her dog and best friend Scotty. Many cousins, nieces and nephews. She will be missed by all.

The family would like to extend their appreciation to the many Dr.'s and Nurses who gave her such loving care. The family would also ask that in remembrance of Nancy as you go about your daily routines take time to do something good for someone even if it's just a smile!

POOR