



Betty Tanner

February 2, 1919 - May 22, 2020

Our dear mother and grandmother, Betty Alice Barber Tanner, died peacefully on May 22, 2020, in the Legacy Village in Provo, Utah, at the age of 101. She was born in Salt Lake City on February 2, 1919, to Annie Lyle Spencer and Jesse Edgar Barber.

Mother was the oldest of three daughters. Her sister Margaret was born 15 months after Betty, and Beverly, 5 years later. Betty became the big sister and as such had lots of extra responsibilities at a very young age since her mother was divorced and had to work away from home to support her little family. After her mother left for work early in the mornings, it was Betty's job to make sure her little sisters had some breakfast and got dressed and off to school on time. She also remembers taking the coal bucket and going up and down the alley picking up coal that had been dropped along the roads as the coal trucks made deliveries.

This coronavirus pandemic is not Betty's first lock down. When her sister Margie got diphtheria, they quarantined the whole family at home for several weeks. No one could come or go, even to buy groceries, and no money at all since her mother only got paid when she worked. But somehow, a relative heard about the little family and each day put a basket of food on the front steps until her mother was able to go back to work. They did not know this sweet lady before, and she died soon after. A very tender mercy.

Betty was 13 and in junior high when she met our father LeRoy Mack Tanner. They were a couple all through school, never interested in any one else. They wanted to get married, but they knew they needed to be able to support themselves. And this was during the depression. They both worked to pay tuition while attending Henegars Business College. Four days after Mack got a good job with the Union Pacific Railroad, they got married in the City and County Building on their lunch hour, stopping to buy a ring on the way. Betty was 17 and Mack was 18. They were married November 27, 1936 and later sealed in the Idaho Falls Temple in 1949. They were together 68 years before Mack died in 2004. And now together again for eternity.

Always active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, mom served in many capacities, wherever she was called. Together she and dad served 7 missions as well as serving as ordinance workers in the Salt Lake Temple and as regular temple patrons wherever they lived. She had a “humanitarian aid factory” in her home in Orem where she made numerous quilts and other baby items and gathered school supplies and toiletries to be sent all over the world. From the time the first extraction program was started, Mom and Dad both worked on extraction and then indexing, mom not giving it up until she was almost 100 years old.

Mom and Dad raised 5 children, living most of the time in the Salt Lake Valley or Boise, Idaho. Part of that time during WWII, mom was alone with 3 little kids. We all have great memories of learning from our mom, whether by her example or her counsel: praying, sewing, cooking, candy making, gardening, cleaning, reading, having fun, and serving. One bit of advice she often gave was “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” Another she repeated up until her very last days was “choose to be happy.” And she did.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents and sisters, her husband Mack, and her son John Tanner, son-in-law Vern Christopherson, and one little great-granddaughter, Avery Tanner. She is survived by her children, Nancy (Paul) Taylor, Jim Tanner, Becky (Steve) Beus, and Jerry (Lynn) Astle and daughter-in-law Sandra Lesh Tanner as well as 26 grandchildren, 100 great-grandchildren, and more than 35 great-great grandchildren. All beautiful and brilliant!

Her family will honor her life with a small gathering on May 27th, and she will be buried along side her husband in the Orem City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary

Events

MAY **Graveside Service** 11:00AM
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Orem City Cemetery
1520 North 800 East, Orem, UT, US, 84097

Comments



“ Sister Tanner was the sweetest..most loving woman I ve known! She was the epitome of being anxiously engaged! I loved working with Betty and Mary Barraclaugh. Both women had the love and energy to fulfill the lord's work here on earth! Feel so grateful to have worked with them and learned from them!

Kori A. Downing - May 26 at 06:16 PM



“ Betty was indeed an angel in the flesh. What a great example she is of service to God and man. May her family always take joy in the heritage she left them and all of us who knew her. May her family rejoice in the assurance of her well deserved place in the Celestial kingdom.

Val Buxton

Val Buxton - May 28 at 01:35 PM