



## Donald "Don" Fraser

July 14, 1934 - April 28, 2017

Donald "Don" Hugh Fraser passed away peacefully at the home of his daughter in Alpine, Utah, on April 28, 2017, with many of his family members present. Don was born July 14, 1934, in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is the son of Hugh Hyndman Fraser and Mary Robertson Watt who immigrated to Canada from their homeland of Scotland.

His childhood was one of many transitions. He attended numerous schools in Southern California, as well as a short attendance at Hurricane High School in Hurricane, Utah, and Provo High School in Provo, Utah. He graduated from Eagle Rock High School in Southern California. Don also attended BYU, Occidental City College, Pasadena City College, University of Utah and Weber State College. He believed in the importance of lifelong learning and delighted in reading his morning newspaper everyday while shaving with his electric razor.

Don's natural abilities as an athlete and his easy going yet determined personality helped him transition between the twists and turns of his childhood and early adult life. He used his 6'4" stature and size 14 feet to his advantage on the football field, basketball court, racquetball court, and tennis court. He played football for BYU and basketball for Occidental City College. Don was a member of the "Nooners" club at the downtown Deseret Gym in Salt Lake City for many years. He always had a gym membership wherever he lived and enjoyed socializing while attempting to bench press the full stack of weights. Don's little piece of heaven was when he was pushing himself to his physical limits while drenched with sweat. At the age of 65, Don's basketball team won the gold medal in the Huntsman Senior Olympic Games in St. George, Utah. In his later years, Don discovered the wonderful sport of pickleball before people really knew about it. He was a regular at the Hurricane City pickleball courts showing the younger crowd how it's done. He was still body surfing and swinging his pickleball paddle at the age of 80.

Don met his wife, Janet Burton, at a swimming party while both were living in Southern California. He tossed her in the pool but she couldn't swim so he had to save her. The rest is history. Don and Janet were married in 1956 at Memory Grove Park, Salt Lake City,

Utah, and later solemnized their marriage in the Los Angeles Temple in 1959. Their whirlwind romance and subsequent 60+ year marriage, as well as the births of five daughters and one son has been what Don considers his greatest success and enjoyment in life.

Don became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints shortly before his marriage to Janet and was thrilled with the possibility of becoming an eternal family. He embraced his membership in the church with enthusiasm and joy. Don loved teaching the gospel to the youth of the church in the seminary program and serving a Stake Mission. He enjoyed discussions about religion and liked to make people “think” as a Gospel Doctrine teacher. He also enjoyed serving in a Dixie College student ward in St. George, Utah. Don shared his enthusiasm for life with all those he encountered and was often heard saying, “It doesn't get any better than this!” He loved the ocean and boating and never passed up the opportunity to teach someone how to body surf or water-ski.

Don provided for his family as a Pharmaceutical Representative for Merrell National Labs. Later, he changed careers and became a successful Real Estate Agent in the Salt Lake, Las Vegas and Southern Utah areas. At the height of his career, he achieved the top award in the state of Utah earning the title “Million Dollar Man.” Don enjoyed helping others and was always excited to see families realize the dream of purchasing a home. Don served eight years on the Nevada Board of Realtors ending his career as a realtor at the age of 78. Through it all, Don was often found on the court playing a mean game of basketball or refereeing for local high school basketball teams.

Don is survived by his wife, Janet Burton Fraser, daughters, Debbie (Neil) Clifford of Timber Lakes, Utah, Susie (Jim) Barlow of Henderson, Nevada, Cathy (Don) Mickelsen of Menan, Idaho, Cindy (Todd) Leishman of Alpine, Utah, Son, Steven (Jill) of Bloomington, Utah, twenty two grandchildren, thirteen great-grandchildren and his brother, Stuart (Ginny) Fraser of Telluride, Colorado. Don was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter (Christine) and two great grandchildren.

In the last weeks of Don's life, he was surrounded by compassionate and loving people while suffering with dementia. Thank you to our supportive hospice team and wonderful family. His dear wife Janet, stayed by Don's side through thick and thin 24/7 to the very end. She will miss him greatly but knows their love is eternal.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, May 11, 2017 at 12 p.m. at the Village Way LDS Chapel, 901 E. Village Way, Alpine, Utah. Visitation will be from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. prior to services at the chapel. Interment will follow in the Alpine City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

# Cemetery

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## Alpine City Cemetery

400 North Grove Drive  
Alpine, UT, 84004

# Events

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**MAY** **Viewing** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

**11**

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Alpine 9th Ward

901 East Village Way, Alpine, UT, US, 84004

**MAY** **Funeral Service** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

**11**

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Alpine 9th Ward

901 East Village Way, Alpine, UT, US, 84004

# Comments

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“ Dear Janet, I consider you one of my best friends and feel for you, the loss of Don. We go way back over the years we spent together in Fruit Heights with our families. Don was such a great Scot, and Dave loved talking to him about that. It was amazing how much commonality they had because of their Heritage. I'll never forget how kind he was to approve of our staying in Las Vegas when I came to visit you in Henderson NV and didn't have the time to drive to your house. Such fun memories. We loved our visits to your house in Hurrigan and swimming in your pool. Seems like water was a common denominator for our families with our trips to Lake Powell. Steve has been such a part of our boys lives, and was especially kind to come by our house to visit and let us know of his regard for Dave and for those times. Only a great couple could raise such wonderful kids. We hold all of these things close to our heart and will miss Don tremendously. We will continue to have the family in our prayers. I don't have a good phone number for you, Janet, so hope you will give me a call when you can.

Love and hugs, Dave and Mary Lou Warden

Mary Lou Warden - May 17, 2017 at 02:30 AM

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“ Hi Family,

I so wish I was with all of you tomorrow. You are in my thoughts and heart, along with the memory of Grandpa Fraser. I want to share a few memories:

1) THE FIRST TIME WE MET was at my wedding- Don's face was all blue and purple bruised from a recent body surfing crash in the ocean. But his smile was enormous and epic just the same. My first thoughts were, "Wow, what a guy! I've never known anyone his age who can or would body surf. I hope to be that young at heart when I get older." The rest of the day he didn't hide, he just enjoyed the party and the company like he ought to. I was touched that Don and Janet traveled all the way to my little hometown in Washington. I'm so glad we had them to add to the joy of our special day.

2) WHEN I WAS EXPECTING MY FIRST BABY Don and Janet congratulated us through and through, but I specifically remember him telling me that when Janet became pregnant with her first, she became the most beautiful and rosy he had ever known her. "She just bloomed" he added, his exact words. For one who was feeling the blatant opposite of beautiful and rosy these words were hope- a very happy and comforting sentiment. At the moment he couldn't have shared anything better. Don and Janet were also there to see Rosie new from the hospital.

3) WHEN I LEFT MY EARRINGS at the Fraser home, Don sent them back in a lovely card with warm wishes. He stated that he wanted to keep the earrings, but they didn't go well with any of his outfits. What a laugh!

I love you all!

Chelsea Mickelsen

CHELSEA - May 11, 2017 at 12:57 AM

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“ 14 files added to the album Annemarie Porter



Annemarie Porter - May 11, 2017 at 12:04 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Mary Klein - May 07, 2017 at 12:33 PM

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“ Mary Klein lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" Fraser



Mary Klein - May 07, 2017 at 12:32 PM

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“ I met Janet and Don about 10 years ago. My husband and I had just moved to St. George and I was making copies of photos in Walmart and Janet was in line with me. She saw my photos of Zion National Park and that started a conversation. We shared a great love of Zion National Park. They visited us many times at our home in Springdale. Don was a bright, intelligent, kind and caring man. Janet and Don's love story was something for a beautiful novel. Janet, I am so sorry for your loss and will keep you and your family in my prayers. I would love to take a drive with you to Zion one day soon.

Thank you and Don for all the kindnesses you showed Wayne and me over the years.

In friendship,  
Mary Klein

Mary Klein - May 07, 2017 at 12:31 PM

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“ My dad was a wonderful man and I will miss him immensely. He was a caring and thoughtful man who loved unconditionally. I feel so blessed for having him as my father and can look back on all the support he has given me throughout my life. Over the last couple of years, the journey became harder for all of us. Even in the face of adversity, my dad was still able to create memorable moments and share a lot of laughter along the way. The memories of all the boating, snow skiing, beach trips, movies, and the countless Fraser house parties. The list goes on and will always be cherished by myself and all those who had the opportunity to spend time with this extraordinary man. He was a wonderful father, father-in-law, and grandfather to our family and it will never feel complete without him here. I loved my daddy tremendously! I know that he is in a better place now. We know he's enjoying himself up in heaven, driving around without me needing to hide the keys!

Susie Barlow - May 06, 2017 at 07:28 PM

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“ Don Fraser entered my life at quite a significant time. The year was 1985 and I was losing my father to cancer. I had just gone through a major change at work and had finally met a gal who captured my attention immensely! This would be Don's daughter, Susie, who I was grateful and so lucky to marry. I am eternally thankful for Don for blessing and supporting our marriage. Don, or as we called him "Grandpa", was so full of life and interested in making each day one to remember. There were many good times to be had with Grandpa, and this tribute only touches a few of those memorable moments. Riding around St. George and having him give us an update on the changes taking place in the area. The many roughhousing occasions with the grandkids whether it be in the living room or the pool. Basketball games where no one escaped without a few bruises. Fun filled boating trips, Beach trips, Movies, Movies, Movies! Racquetball, Pickle ball! The many trips to Zion just to put a smile on Janet's face. Living together multiple times while homes were being built and consuming late night toast, English muffins with peanut butter and Susie's jam. I certainly will never forget the incredible SUBWAY hike that most of the family can "fondly" remember. Don had a special Father / Daughter connection with Susie, it was clear there was deep love and an unbreakable bond between the two of them. As we all know Don was physically intimidating, intellectually advanced and had an expanded vocabulary to say the least yet he enjoyed sharing his wit and creating

laughter. I remember many occasions asking for his advice when I was experiencing a tough time and he was always willing to set aside the needed time and help me however he could.

The one thing that resonates above all with me was his unconditional love for me. Don and I did not practice all of the same principles in life and over 31 years he never questioned me about how my family lived our lives.

Grandpa, thanks for all of the good times! We love you and will miss you immensely!

Jim Barlow - May 06, 2017 at 07:18 PM

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“ Grandpa Fraser is every grandchild's dream grandpa. He was a guy who loved making people laugh, a "let's go out and throw the ball around", an "everyone tackle grandpa in the pool", and "look out! it's the tickle monster!". Grandpa was genuine and good hearted. He loved being a part of my high school football, even bearing to stand in a game while a blizzard was blowing through. We were fortunate enough to visit grandpa several months ago so he could meet his great-grandson, Emmett. Aunt Suzy just about lost it watching grandpa carry my little boy throughout the building. He was wobbly and weak in the knees, but he wanted everyone to know that he was carrying his precious grand baby. It was a sight to see my grandpa carrying my baby boy. I was a proud grandson and a proud father that day.



Logan Mickelsen - May 02, 2017 at 05:28 PM

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“ 14 files added to the album New Album Name



don - April 30, 2017 at 09:50 PM

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“ Grandpa Fraser has been a part of my life for over 30 years. It was in 1986 when I first met him. I had found the love of my life and it happened to be his daughter. Grandpa was unique in his ability to love his children. The interaction between him and my wife was special to see. My wife always expressed a close bond between the two of them. There was a trust that linked her and him together as only a father and

daughter can have. That link was extended to my children who always relished the thought of seeing Grandpa Fraser. He was full of fun and surprises. As I have watched my wife go through the process of loosing her father I have seen an attachment of love and care that testifies to me of her love for her father. He will be missed among our family. Though we are not ready to purchase a ticket today, we do anxiously await the opportunity to embrace him again. One of my children expressed the question, "I wonder what Grandpa is doing right now", I can just imagine him flexing his young muscles again, enjoying the ability to move with the ease of youth. He always loved his physical ability to run, jump, lift and participate in sports and activities. The racquetball and pickleball courts will be silenced for a time but I believe the courts in heaven will be livened up by his presence. Grandpa we love you and will miss you.

**Don** - April 30, 2017 at 09:26 AM