



## Duane Nichols

September 13, 1941 - October 29, 2017

Gary Duane Nichols was born on September 13, 1941 to Oral Marie Keller and Roy Arthur Nichols. He was the oldest of 6 children and was raised in Santa Monica, CA.

From an early age Gary was always trying to please his parents. Despite the family's proximity to the ocean Gary was never one to skip school and head to the beach. He was focused on his studies and always seemed to do well, especially with the sciences. Gary was also driven to accomplish his goals. After getting his license he wanted a car and so he got a job delivering artwork to homes in the area on his bicycle. Gary graduated from Santa Monica High School in 1958 and then attended one year of school at Santa Monica Community College.

At the age of 19 Gary chose to serve a 2 ½ year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. His mission covered the countries of Uruguay and Paraguay. Some of his experiences seemed to feel more like a movie rather than a mission like we think of today. We loved to hear his stories. On one occasion he was involved in a bus crash where the bus rolled down a mountain in the mud 3 or 4 times and miraculously no one was injured or killed. On another occasion when transferring from one area to another he was trapped in a hotel in Argentina during a political uprising for a few days before things settled down and he was able to return to the mission offices. His experiences while serving the Lord had great influence on his testimony of our Savior Jesus Christ. This testimony would only be strengthened throughout the rest of his life.

Upon returning from his mission Gary enrolled at Brigham Young University where he was surprised to have two other roommates named Gary. Not wanting to create confusion he started going by his middle name Duane. He would go by Duane for the rest of his life. It was also at BYU that Duane met the love of his life, Marjorie Hyde. He and Marjorie would be married in the Los Angeles Temple on September 11, 1965. Together they raised 5 children in Rowland Heights, CA., Greg, Ryan, Cameron, Stephanie, and Elise. Duane's love for Marjorie was a great example to his children of how a man should treat his wife. He always placed her on a pedestal, he cherished her, and he put her first in almost

everything he did. Together they shared 52 years of marriage on this earth, but look forward to eternity together.

Duane's chosen vocation was to teach Biology at Alhambra High School. He taught for 38 years. He loved to teach and see his students learn and embrace new concepts. He started a BioMed program that influenced the lives of many young students. He was honored to be awarded as a National Teacher of the Year. Under his tutelage his students competed and placed nationally in science fairs year after year. It is not uncommon to have his students say that his influence in their lives was of great impact in who they are today and the professions that they chose.

Duane was a great father. Despite his busy schedule that included teaching at the High School and other jobs to provide more income for his family he was also focused spending time with each of his children. He would often invite his children to run errands with him and then swing by to get an ice cream. He spent a lot of time in the mountains with his boys teaching them to fish, how to camp, and respect for the environment. His sons learned to work side by side with him on projects as routine as taking care of the yard to restoring a boat. He loved to pamper his daughters. He would take them on daddy daughter dates and let them know how special they were. He was known to be their secret admirers at times in their lives. He loved and cared for all his children and they never doubted it.

Throughout his life Duane served in various capacities in the church and he approached them all with the same energy and passion. Two of his favorite callings were serving the members of Rowland Heights, CA as the Bishop and later as Patriarch of the Hacienda Heights, CA Stake.

Duane was the type of person that people were drawn to. He was genuine, kind, loving and truly brought the best out of people. He was known for giving great hugs and being a great friend and listener to anyone that needed it. Throughout his life he was known by many names: Gary, Duane, Mr. Nichols, Bishop, Brother Nichols, Patriarch, Honey, Dad, and Papa. But in the end he will be remembered by his greatest attribute...he was Christlike!

Duane is preceded in death by his parents, Oral and Roy, and his brother Daniel Keith. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, Highland, UT; son Greg (Angie) Logan, UT; son Ryan, Huntington Beach, CA; son Cameron (Jeri), Draper, UT; daughter Stephanie (Ryan) Gunstream, Roseville, CA; daughter Elise (Dan) Franklin, Meridian, ID. Duane was blessed with eleven grandchildren that called him Papa.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, November 4th at 12:00 Noon at the Highland LDS Chapel located at 11162 North Alpine Highway, Highland, Utah, where a Viewing will be held prior to services from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Interment in Highland City Cemetery, 6200 West 11000 North, Highland, Utah.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

# Cemetery

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## Highland City Cemetery

6200 West 11000 North  
Highland, UT, 84003

# Events

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**NOV** **Viewing** 10:00AM - 11:30AM

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Highland LDS Chapel

11162 North Alpine Highway, Highland, UT, US

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

**4**

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Highland LDS Chapel

11162 North Alpine Highway, Highland, UT, US

# Comments

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“ My deepest condolences for the passing of an amazing individual. I remember having Mr. Nichols as my science teacher back at Alhambra High in 2001 for Anatomy/Physiology. I didn't realize it would be my favorite subject largely in part because of his passion and enthusiasm in science. He quickly became a favorite teacher and had such an amicable personality that it drew in many others. During a science fair, he even recognized my mother who was his student in the early 1980s - incredible.

I am confident that Mr. Nichols' influence played a big part on my path to healthcare. Science always resonated with me and I used that strength to become a strong critical care RN and ultimately became an anesthesia provider. Furthermore, I love taking students under my wing and imparting as much knowledge as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Nichols, for everything that you have done for all of us. Know that you touched countless lives and made such an impact on the people we have become today. We can only hope to pass on some of the wisdom that you bestowed to us.

Christian Mendoza, CRNA

Christian Mendoza - June 28, 2018 at 06:27 AM

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“ I am terribly sorry to hear this news. My condolences to your family. I was a student in the BioMed program from 1997-2001 and also took Mr Nichols' physiology class. I still remember Mr. Nichols really pushed us to get ourselves out there and find a lab to work in. I really believed that my experience in the BioMed program gave me the confidence to pursue careers and higher education opportunities that I have not even considered possible. Much like Annie, I also remember Mr Nichols taking us water skiing, and teased us since most of us have never done it before. I am now also a teacher following in Mr Nichols' footsteps. He has definitely made a positive impact on my life. Thank you very much for everything

Wing Cheung, PhD.

Wing - November 25, 2017 at 02:00 AM

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“ My deepest condolences to your family, but I hope that in reading all these testimonies they will find comfort in knowing how many lives he touched. I was lucky enough to have been part of the BioMed program, class of 1990. Comparing notes with future colleagues, I have come to realize what an incredibly unique world Mr. Nichols created in that early morning classroom so many years ago. He was a gentle and generous father figure to so many of us, shepherding us through science fairs around the country. I am now a surgeon in SF, thanks in no small part to the path he started me on as a teenager. I imagine I'm but one small figure in a large group of fellow doctors, engineers, and scientists who share gratitude for the impact he had in our lives. You'll always be a part of who I am, Mr. Nichols. Thank you so very much. I hope you're enjoying the water skiing on the other side.

David Le, MD

David Le - November 23, 2017 at 12:53 AM

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“ Cindy Escutia  
Bro. Nichols I am missing you. You & Marjorie were there when my beloved mother passed away so unexpectedly and the both of you were there when my dad passed away. I remember how we tease each other about our driving. You drive fast and I would drive the speed limit. I called you speed demon. You are loved and cherished by me. Love you and miss you.

Cindy Escutia - November 12, 2017 at 05:19 AM

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“ Dear Patriarch Nichols,  
It's still so unreal that I won't be able to see you again while on earth; I simply was not ready to accept this fact; like many unexpected things in my life. I could have met you before the General conference when I visited Salt Lake for a convention. You and I tried and failed to arrange a time workable for both of us and finally I missed the opportunity to visit you and Marjorie at your new home . Gratefully we have and treasure this eternal truth and gospel that this is but a short time on earth and that family and friends can be eternal. Hopefully I can work hard and be able to see you again beyond the veil. Before then, your great example will always be a guide to many of us. You lived a great life! I really admire your sweet and beautiful wife; how I love and appreciate her. I am glad that you have her eternally and that nobody can take her away from you. What a comfort it must be for you now that you have gone home.... wish I could visit her sooner than I expect.  
Love you and Marjorie, Sandy Lee.

Sandy Lee - November 11, 2017 at 06:50 PM

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“ To my wonderful friend Duane,  
You will really be missed by all. You were such a good Bishop and friend to my family and myself.  
Lots of love to you're lovely family,  
Kay

**Kay Schmitter** - November 11, 2017 at 02:53 AM

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“ Mr. Nichols is a teacher who touched the hearts of many students. I believe he left a long-lasting impression on many of us. I will always remember the early mornings in Bio-Med class, the hikes in Yosemite, spending time in his cabin, and my trip to Kenya with him. He gave us experiences most of us kids in Alhambra would never receive, from water-skiing for the first time to seeing Half Dome in real life. Education is an amazing field, and we do not give teachers enough credit for all that they do for us. Because of Mr. Nichols, I developed a love for science, travel, and helping others. At 18, I am so lucky that Mr. Nichols gave me an opportunity of a life-time by bringing me to Kenya with him on an Earthwatch trip through a science fair scholarship. Even when my mother feared for the worst, he convinced her that everything would be alright and he would be watching over me in Africa. He will always continue to watch over us as our teacher and friend.

-Annie Li, DVM, MPH Global Health (degrees I attribute to Mr. Nichols)



**Annie Li** - November 06, 2017 at 02:47 AM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Sorry to hear of your loss. I have fond memories of Dr. Nichols, and my love goes out to you. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to be part of the biomed program when I attended AHS (class of '93). It was always amazing that Dr. Nichols brought his energy and enthusiasm in science at 7a in the morning. I was also fortunate enough to be able to experience ISEF with Dr. Nichols during my senior year in Biloxi, Mississippi. To this day, I still keep in touch with the mentor whom he connected me with at USDA as part of biomed. Through my exposure to science through Dr. Nichols/biomed, it really got me started on my scientific career as I went on receiving my PhD and working in the Pharmaceutical science area for 15+ years and have the opportunity to lead/mentor a team of scientists at my work place. I was fortunate enough to have stayed in touch with Dr. Nichols during my college years until AHS became closed campus.

**Felix Lai** - November 06, 2017 at 12:38 AM

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“ Our condolences to the family. We enjoyed getting to know Duane and Marjorie during the process of rebuilding our mountain homes in Cedar Glen, after the Old Fire. Duane had a great sense of humor and was always willing to help his neighbors. He will be missed!

**Carol and Jeff Potter** - November 05, 2017 at 10:52 AM

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“ Bishop, Teacher, Patriarch and Friend....it is with humble hearts and our deepest love that we are here today to say our heartfelt farewell to you. We have been so fortunate over the last 40 years to have shared our lives with you and Marjorie in The Rowland Heights Ward. We have learned from you; been inspired by you and we have been loved by you. We will always appreciate the compassion you have had for our family. Please know how much we love you and how much you will be missed. Our Love, Emery , Chris, Danny and Brent

**Chris Frost** - November 04, 2017 at 12:40 PM

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“ Mr. Nichols has truly been an inspiration to many students that were fortunate to take one (or many) of his courses. Under his guidance, my partner and I succeeded in the high school’s biomedical program, eventually leading to a placement in the Intel ISEF 2006.

Mr. Nichols has been a great mentor to many during his tenure as a teacher. He always had a smile on, not to mention always dressed for the occasion with his spiffy suit, everyday.

Although he is no longer with us physically, his teachings and mentorship will live on through us, immortalized.

D - November 03, 2017 at 05:04 PM

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“ 7 files added to the album To one of my greatest mentors, who loved dogwood flowers



Serena Lee - November 03, 2017 at 02:04 AM

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“ As one of the luckiest students at Alhambra High School, I took Mr. Nichols's last Physiology course before his retirement. In my memory, Mr. Nichols was one of the few, or perhaps the only teacher that dressing in a suit everyday coming to work, which shows how much he respected to his teaching job and his students. It's no doubt that lots of students, including me, who ever had his class were inspired by Mr. Nichols's passionate and charming lectures to pursue biosciences as our careers. He encouraged us to practice scientific presentation even before we can appreciate how important it is to our daily work now. He brought in resources that allowed high school students to get hands-on learning experiences that can still be rarely found at many schools today. His humorous and caring characters lightened a teenager's frustration in those special times of our lives. Thank you Mr. Nichols, for being such a great teacher in my life. Although I never have a chance to tell you in person now, but I'd like you know that your scientific hypothesis about predicting me having stomach ulcers when I grow up as I always worried about my homework too much was unfortunately proved true. You will always be missed by your students. May you rest in peace and my most sincere condolences to your family.

Linda Song



Linda - November 03, 2017 at 12:32 AM

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“ I had Mr. Nichols for four years of Biomed and one semester of physiology. Just imagining the kind of confidence necessary to run a program like Biomed, where he inspired his students to petition graduate-level labs for internships with zero experience, is nearly impossible. When I think of the perfect teacher who makes you work hard while feeling good about it, I think of Mr. Nichols. I will forever remember him for his plentiful anecdotes and his careful balance of humor and seriousness. To my favorite teacher of all time: rest in peace.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Chin

Daniel Chin - November 02, 2017 at 09:49 PM

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“ I have such fond memories of the best neighbors ever. I recall his calming voice and his "bird" sanctuary in the backyard. Always so kind and willingness to help anyone. Duane and Marjorie are such an important part of my childhood. Love them so much.

**Tami Johnston Luce** - November 02, 2017 at 08:54 PM

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“ Cathy Chin sent a virtual gift in memory of Duane Nichols



**Cathy Chin** - November 02, 2017 at 04:39 PM

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“ Many years have gone by but i cant forget Gary as a youth. He was steady in his devotion and an example to all of us. My sympathy goes to his family. With love, Kate Schiess Cuthbertson

**Kate schiess cuthbertson** - November 02, 2017 at 03:51 PM

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“ To Richard, Teryl Ann, Larry & Dennis: My family and I express our condolences. One cannot think about your father's conversion story without thinking about your brother. Gary—Duane—served a mission with deep faith and valor. He was one of the first of the way-older boys of whom I was cognizant to serve a mission. From his exemplar, it seemed like a mission could foster miracles. So if it was all right for your way-older brother to give his all to serve a mission, it would be all right for me, too. I regret not knowing wife, Marjorie, and children. Our heartfelt condolences go out to you, too. Your husband and father was/is good troop.  
—gerald patten

**gerald patten** - November 02, 2017 at 02:07 PM

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“ I worked with Duane for 20 years in the Science Department at Alhambra High School. He was an enthusiastic science teacher whose love for science was contagious. We took students on numerous field trips including to Yosemite and Catalina Island where they were able to experience nature and science up close. His greatest love, of course, was the Bio-Med Program at AHS where Duane was able to train and inspire hundreds of students to enter medical and scientific careers. Because of Duane there are literally hundreds of professionals out there serving their communities in the fields of medicine and science. The Bio-Med Program which was started in 1969 continues to this day primarily because of the efforts of Duane Nichols and the high standards that he set. Duane is the quintessential example of how teachers make a huge difference in all of our lives. Duane we will never forget you.

Daniel Hyke

Daniel Hyke - November 02, 2017 at 11:11 AM

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“ I had a class with Mr Nichols where he taught me how to make my first PowerPoint presentation. He was one of the AHS teachers who inspired me to study a biology related major in college. Many fond memories of him and his class. Condolences to the family. Please know he positively effected many people.

Quoc Quach - November 01, 2017 at 11:26 PM

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“ I was in quite a few of Mr. Nichols' classes, including, Health and Bio-Med (for 3 years in 0 period), but the one that is most memorable to me right now is Drivers' Ed (back when it was offered in high school to 9th graders.) My own children are now about driving age, and I often think back to Mr. Nichols' drivers' ed instruction, and the stories that accompanied his lessons. Oh, and I always remembered that one of his pet peeves was people who would leave their Christmas lights up all year.

Tinky Schmit - November 01, 2017 at 10:53 PM

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“ Mr. Nichols ALWAYS put his students first, and I was one of many who benefitted. His passion for science and tremendous generous spirit that was a rare gift for all of us who had the privilege of being mentored by him. I hope his family finds comfort in knowing that he was greatly loved by so many students, and that his legacy lives on in each and every one of us.

Jenn Kuo - November 01, 2017 at 07:45 PM

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“ Duane was a colleague and a good friend. We shared a inside back room in the B-Building when I first started teaching. Oh the crazy things we would find in the refrigerator behind his room! You don't want to know! I went with him on two occasions to Yosemite with the students from the high school and they are trips I will always remember. Our hike up to the top of Yosemite Falls was a bucket list item I do not need to repeat. He loved his students and he loved teaching. When he took over the Bio-Med program he took it to a new level. He challenged his students to go the extra mile and they did. A true professional at work, but he could take a joke. The kids use to love to send him dead flowers for Valentines"s Day, or give him a baseball cap with a long pony tail in the back. And he took it in stride. His students loved and respected him. As did those of us who worked closely with him at AHS. He had his share of trials both on campus and in his personal life, but he faced everything with a solid stance and a true heart. Marjorie, you and your children should know how much he was loved. Though we have not kept in touch for a long time, often there would be something that would cross my path that would remind me of Duane and bring a smile to my face. Our love and prayers are with you.

Gloria Tauson, Math Teacher, Counselor, Alhambra High School

Gloria Tauson - November 01, 2017 at 05:23 PM

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“ Mr. Nichols was one of the best teachers that I ever had in any school. I was a student for both his Biology and Physiology classes at Alhambra High School. Mr. Nichols was very inspirational, and he made science fun and easy to understand. I remember his quick wit and sense of humor. He would make funny jokes to make dissecting a frog not so scary. My deepest sympathy. I truly feel blessed and honored that Mr. Nichols was a part of my high school life.

Dallas Li - November 01, 2017 at 01:00 PM

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“ I'm truly saddened by this news of Mr. Nichols passing. He was truly one of the great teachers I ever had. He was inspiring, talented and a charismatic person who makes science fun and easily understandable. I loved his class so much I kept the notes I've taken in his class. He was truly one of the good teachers out there. Thank you for all you have done for the AHS students, Mr Nichols. You will be missed.



**Tuyet Nguyen** - November 01, 2017 at 12:58 AM

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“ He always had such great stories of all his travels. I had a lot of fun in his class though his was one of the most challenging. He also helped out with the Christmas Committee and we all had a blast. He will be fondly spoken of and AHS should have SOMETHING to remember him by. He was legendary

**Sarah Rios** - November 01, 2017 at 12:23 AM

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“ Mr. Nichols is my favorite teacher because he was a great mentor and friend. He came to school early to add an extra period of class before the rest of the high school started class. He challenged us to do so much more than the average high school student and so much more than we thought possible. I'm where I am because of the biomed program that he passionately led. No other teacher spent so much of his own time to help us with our presentation skills, our college applications, and our futures. He did it all out of the kindness of his heart. For that, he will be remembered by us all. God bless him.

**Nancy Quach** - November 01, 2017 at 12:05 AM

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“ Worked with Duane, a truly great teacher and mentor to thousands of students. He was a true gentleman. He was also my son Derek Yee's teacher! Please check out FB pages I Grew Up In Alhambra and the Alhambra High Alumni Association. There are many tributes to him and the impact he had on his students. Wish we could do something at Alhambra High School to honor his memory!

**William Yee** - October 31, 2017 at 11:58 PM



“ Mr Nichols realized after the first week of my lack of interest in science. But he still encouraged me to stick it out in physiology and I got to dissect frogs and fuzzy memory of road kill too He was one of the few teachers who was both challenging and motivating. Many of classmates attribute their science careers to his biomed program.

**Maria Chan** - October 31, 2017 at 11:17 PM

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“ Duane was my upstairs neighbor at Alhambra High School. His class dissected pigs and frogs and we cooked great smelling food that wafted up to his science lab. I still remember the apples he picked each year from his trees in Arrowhead. He would bring enough so all my classes could make homemade apple pies. In return I would send up a few apple pies for him to take home and enjoy. He was a wonderful teacher. His Biomed program was legendary. I know many students have gone on to do great things. His memory will live on in the thousands of student lives he touched.  
-Julie Eyre, Consumer Family Living Teacher

**julie eyre** - October 31, 2017 at 08:15 PM