



Durrel Arden Woolsey

June 12, 1926 - May 13, 2019

Durrel Arden Woolsey passed away quietly at home with LaRae, his wife of 72 years, by his side. He was the first child of Arden and Ruby Woolsey, born in Escalante, UT June 12, 1926. He was preceded in death by his siblings, Wallace, LaNia and Joy.

Durrel and LaRae Wood were married in 1946 following his service in the Navy during WW II. They are parents to a son, Bruce and two daughters, Geri and Gena. They have 16 grandchildren and 36 great grandchildren. As a young man Durrel began his career employed by Standard Oil Company, and over time grew that into an independently owned business, Woolsey Oil, which eventually employed over 50 people. While raising his family, Durrel was active in civic activities, such as President of the Chamber of Commerce and President of Rotary. He played to an honest 7 handicap, and spent many fun nights playing his trombone in a locally prominent jazz band.

Devout in his service in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he served in leadership positions starting at a young age which continued for decades. He served as counselor and then as Stake President for 17 years in Stockton CA. Durrel and LaRae were called to preside over the Tempe AZ mission in 1988 for 3 years and was then called to the Quorum of Seventy for several years. Following his release from the Quorum, he served for 3 years as Oakland Temple President, with LaRae as Matron.

The years after church service were quiet, involving himself with ongoing service to others, family interests, gardening and enjoying his love of music.

He said he was looking forward to his new calling.....

Funeral Services will be held Monday, May 20th at 1:00 pm at the Alpine Stake Center, 98 East Canyon Crest Rd., Alpine, Utah, where a Viewing will be held prior to services from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. Interment in Alpine City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Alpine City Cemetery

400 North Grove Drive
Alpine, UT, 84004

Events

MAY **Viewing** 11:00AM - 12:30PM

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Alpine Stake Center

98 East Canyon Crest Road, Alpine, UT, US, 84004

MAY **Funeral Service** 01:00PM - 02:00PM

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Alpine Stake Center

98 East Canyon Crest Road, Alpine, UT, US, 84004

Comments



“ Dear Woolsey Family -
I have such dear memories of Pres. Woolsey, as well as of your whole family. Pres. Woolsey was the Stake President of my youth, which meant a lot to me. I remember a particular trip to Great America where he and I rode the Tidal Wave roller Coaster over and over. We just kept running around and getting back in line. I'll never forget that day. Pres. Woolsey was also the Stake President as I prepared to get married. He was always so kind and easy to talk to.
Of course, as a member of the Gee Family, I will always going to Christmas carol to the Woolsey home, where they always had a houseful of missionaries who had nowhere to go for Christmas.
Durrel Woolsey was such a memorable character in the story of my life, and I will always love him.
My condolences to you all for the loss of such an amazing man, but I know we will all have a chance to see him again some day.

Sandi Gee West

Sandi Gee West - May 20 at 11:18 AM



“ Dear Woolsey Family,
I send you my condolences and love at this tender time. During my family's Stockton years, we were blessed to know Durrel and LaRae when we worked together at church. I was called to serve as Stake Relief Society President when Brother Woolsey was Stake President and I appreciated his inspired, gentle leadership and his dedication. And later, when he and LaRae were serving at the Oakland Temple, I appreciated how he would somehow find out we were at the temple and invite us to his temple office before a session to say hello. What a sweet couple. I know that many others have also felt of their kindness and warmth. So grateful to be blessed with their friendship.....Much love,
Andrea (Gessell) Severe and Family.

Andrea Severe - May 19 at 01:25 AM



“ Dear Sister LaRae and Woolsey Family,

We love you. Our hearts are deeply saddened by President Woolsey's passing. We remember you with warm thoughts, great respect and appreciation, and pray for your comfort. We will sing a song of peace for you all.

Much love,

Mark and Seija Anderson

Don Avenue Ward, Stockton Stake

Seija Anderson - May 18 at 03:05 PM



“ Dear Woolsey Family,

I was sadden to hear of Durrel's passing. I have very fond memories of my youth growing up in Taft, Ca. as he mentored me as my Priesthood leader. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this sad time. Sweet is the peace the gospel brings.

Our love to you all,
Don and Bonnie Phillips

Don Phillips - May 17 at 11:34 PM



“ Dear Woolsey Family, I am sorry to hear of President Woolsey's passing. I grew up in Stockton and my parents Seth and Edenia Green are my parents. They loved Pres. and Sister Woolsey and spoke so highly of them. May your family find peace in knowing that families are forever. Lanea Green Sampson

Lanea Sampson - May 18 at 01:49 AM



“ Dear Woolsey family,
any moons ago, D.A. took us seemingly strapping youths on a junket to the church welfare farm near Bakersfield. There happened to be an old concrete pad that the farm foreman wanted to breaktis up, in order that the detritus be hauled away. I'll never forget how D.A., broad shoulders and all, wielded that big sledge, and obliterated said concrete with resolve. Indeed, he showed us skinny teenagers a thing or two. It is no wonder that he lived such a long life in order to enrich ours. My condolences to the beautiful Larae, and son Bruce, and daughters Geri and Gena. P.S. I have very fond memorier of Durrel's folks, Arden and the lovely Ruby.

Sincerely, Dean E. Phillips

Dean Phillips - May 24 at 05:19 PM



“ Excuse me. I meant to say, "Many" moons ago.

Dean Phillips - May 24 at 05:23 PM



“ Dear Woolsey Family,

I joined the Church in 1967 in Taft - thanks to your dear grandmother Ruby. Durrel was my first home teacher. I loved to sit by La Nia in church and sing alto with her. Your family was so welcoming and supportive to me during those first years and I will always be grateful. My second husband, Paul Woodward, and I even spent the night in Cedar City with Ruby and Arden on a trip to Colorado many years ago. Durrel was a true servant of the Lord - I remember his talk during one General Conference session. What a wonderful heritage you all leave as examples of Heavenly Father's

love. Thank you!
Lynne Woodward

Lynne Woodward - May 17 at 01:28 PM



“ Dear Woolsey Family,

What wonderful memories I have of your dear father and mother when we lived in the Stockton/Lodi area when your father served as Stockton Stake President and Bob served as Lodi Stake President. We often attended regional events together. The Wade Family has great love for the Woolsey family. I'm sorry that I'll be in Boise for a granddaughter's high school graduation on the 21st. I would have loved to see all of you. I send my love and sympathy at this time. I'm sure his funeral will be a wonderful celebration of his graduation from mortality. We are so blessed to know Heavenly Father's Plan of Happiness.....Families can be together forever!

Love,
Faye Wade and family

Faye Wade - May 17 at 10:20 AM