



Irene Fife

May 14, 1937 - April 12, 2020

Irene Katherine Reim Fife, 82, passed away April 12, 2020 due to liver and kidney failure at the Ashford Assisted Living Center in Draper UT. Irene was born in San Francisco, California and was the oldest child of Reynold Louis and Barbara (Mulkay) Reim. Irene's father was a warrant officer in the US Army and as a result, had the opportunity to travel a great deal throughout her growing up years, seldom starting and finishing a grade in the same school. She lived in Pacific Grove and Monterrey CA, Wenatchee WA, Salt Lake City UT, and Aberdeen MD in the United States, and in Japan, Germany, and France overseas.

In September 1958, Irene met her future husband, James David Fife at a church dance. She said he impressed her because he was the only boy that didn't tromp on her feet that night. He proposed just three weeks later, and James and Irene were married 11 April 1958 in the Los Angeles Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Over the course of their marriage, Irene and James lived in Gridley CA, Sacramento CA, Provo UT, Syracuse NY, Norman OK, and American Fork UT. James and Irene served a mission for their church as mission president and wife in the France Paris Mission 1984-1987, and then later as senior missionaries to the Canada Montreal Mission and then to the Canada New Brunswick Mission.

Irene was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at the age of 12 in Wenatchee WA but didn't have the opportunity to be fully active in the church until she was an adult. She served in many church callings, mostly in the Relief Society and in Family History and was a Family History Librarian for over 35 years.

Earning her bachelor's degree was a lifelong goal for Irene that was interrupted by marriage and having children, but she went back to college when her youngest child started 1st grade, and by taking a class or two each semester, and in spite of being interrupted by their mission to France, earned her BA degree in French, with a minor in German in her mid-50's, and completed a year towards her master's degree while

teaching as a language assistant at the University of Oklahoma. Irene's determination to learn and her great love of reading were great examples to her children and has created a legacy that is being realized in her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Other hobbies and interests that she has passed onto her children are Family History work, making quilts, and gardening.

Irene is survived by her husband, James David Fife (87); her brothers Reynold Louis (Bud) Reim (Dixie), John Reim (Janet), and her sister Louanne Ramirez; her children Jacqueline Hutchins (Von), Eagle ID; Michael R. Fife, Salt Lake City UT; Leslie D. Fife (Jeanette), South Jordan UT; Mauricette McKinnon (Mark), Sandy UT; Roxanne Kelson (Aaron), Eveleth MN; Gisele Conlee (Steve), Pleasant Grove UT; Nathan Fife, Norman OK; her 33 beautiful grandchildren, and her even more wonderful 20 great grandchildren (with several pending).

Irene will always be remembered as an outstanding wife and mother, a loyal friend, and a valiant woman with a strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A private family Graveside Service will be held at the American Fork City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary

Cemetery

American Fork City Cemetery

600 North 100 East

American Fork, UT, 84003

Comments



“ Concetta Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Irene Fife



Concetta Jones - April 24, 2020 at 12:50 PM



“ I still remember just before going home from my mission, confiding in Sis. Fife and she truly gave me the best advice ever. Goodbye Sister Fife. Thank you so much for your love to all those missionaries you helped so much. Condolences to President Fife. You are in the prayers of so many right now.

Concetta Jones - April 24, 2020 at 12:49 PM



“ When I went to our mission facebook page and unexpectedly found out that Sister Fife had passed, tears filled my eyes and my heart continues to weep. I don't really have a particular memory or specific moment, but was so deeply touched during the final four months of my mission that I got to see her almost every day. Her warmth and kindness and generosity that flowed nonstop, filled my being with a maternal goodness that I had so been missing. Merci beaucoup Soeur Fife! May you be blessed on your journey to the stars.

Mark Daniels - April 20, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ I remember Sister Fife always being kind and full of love for all of the missionaries. She made us feel at home, which was important to us being so far away from our own homes. I remember how strange it was to arrive in France, feeling a bit lost and also wondering about what was ahead. A good meal at the mission home and feeling a sense of family eased the transition to missionary life. Please accept my sympathy and love for your family.

Gary Gibb

Gary Gibb - April 20, 2020 at 11:51 AM



“ Sister Fife was so nice to share their meals with us single people from the Norman Singles group. I am not worried about where she will end up on the other side. I suppose many of us will have a hard time to make that level. After Donna Nievar passed away I married Angela Jones. Brother Fife took care of that wedding for Angela and I, Thanks. The entire Fife family was a joy to be around. Billy W. Nievar, Oklahoma City.

Billy W. Nievar - April 20, 2020 at 12:03 AM



“ Sister Fife was a lovely human being and an inspiration for us as missionaries. I can still remember her teaching us that we should keep a clean apartment if we expect the Spirit to be present there. She made us smile a lot, like the time when she expressed frustration at looking up a French word in the dictionary, and finding it's the same unknown word in English. Until that time, I thought that only happened to me. She was warm and selfless and an example of discipleship that I well never forget.

David C. Maness - April 19, 2020 at 06:48 PM



“ I love Irene and James for there love and kindness. They always had time to help others. When they were leaving Norman it was a great loss but a great gift to their family in Utah. To James and the family I am sorry for your loss but I know you will all be united on the other side. Irene was love.

Karen Crane - April 16, 2020 at 10:42 AM



“ I remember her fondly from spending time at the big house on College Avenue in the 1980s. From reading her obituary in the Norman Transcript, she clearly led an amazing life. I am sorry for your loss.

Joshua Kershen - April 16, 2020 at 09:56 AM



“ I always looked up to her, she was kind and had many talents.

Barbara Williams - April 16, 2020 at 12:49 AM



“ I have very fond memories of Sister Fife when I was growing up in Norman, Oklahoma. She was always a great example to me. I know that she will be missed very much by all who knew her; and especially by her family. Deepest sympathy and prayers.

Janet Adams Starnes - April 15, 2020 at 09:18 PM



“ I'm an introverted person, and, for me, fitting in with Roxanne's large and close family has never been an easy road to navigate. Yet, my dear mother-in-law always seemed to know how to draw me in. I could talk with her easily, and I felt that she understood me. We had many good talks over the 33 years that I've known her, and her steadying influence and pure love have been Divine gifts for me. I am so grateful that Roxanne and I were able to spend a week in Paris with Irene and James in 2016. I had never been to Europe before, but I knew that would be their last trip, so I agreed that we should go. We had them to ourselves for a week. Mom and I walked and talked together for many hours that week. And a highlight was being able to attend a dedicatory session for the Paris Temple, a dream come true for Mom and Dad Fife. By the Grace of God, Roxanne and I were able to experience that with them. The joy they felt being in a land and among people they had served so faithfully as a holy temple was dedicated was so apparent. That week was a treasure I will hold in my heart forever. Irene could be as cultured and refined as anyone when the situation required, but she was really more comfortable working in the garden and making bread. I loved that about her. I miss her so much more than I knew I would. (Fortunately, Roxanne is just like her.)

Aaron Kelson - April 15, 2020 at 12:19 PM



“ We have always said we prayed Mauricette into our life. When she and Mark married we were blessed to also receive her parents and family into our hearts. We have loved your parents from first meeting. We have admired their faith and good works. We have spent happy hours with them as we have traveled to celebrations honoring the accomplishments of the grandchildren we share. The obituary of your mother gave us additional information of what a remarkable person she is. She was so humble and never spoke of her many accomplishments. She certainly had a varied and interesting life. We are grateful to learn of her many selfless hours doing family history and helping others find their ancestors. It must be a great reunion of gratitude and love. We have been with her as she attended to the emergency of your fathers health. She is a very calm and steadfast woman of faith. We are sad we can't see you in person to express our love. Please know you are in our hearts and prayers for you and your wonderful father. He has been a great husband to your mother. Because of his faith he has provided them many opportunities to be of service. We love your parents and are very grateful to have them and happy memories. Our love to all of you. You have been greatly blessed to have such noble parents and ancestors.

gary and linda mckinnon - April 15, 2020 at 11:13 AM



“ I first met my darling Aunt Irene at a family reunion at Dinkey Creek, CA in 1958 attended by my family, the John & Gwen Bushmans, uncle & aunts & families :Randy & Norma Fifes, Loren & Jo & Bill & Donna Stoddard's, Dick & Mabel McDowells & grandmother Mabel Fife. Uncle James did not attend as he was at military duty. Aunt Irene was then quite morning sick in her 1st pregnancy, but I, as an 8th grader, was excited to have such a pretty new aunt to interact & visit with. Uncle James & Aunt Irene lived in Gridley, CA & he taught at Live Oak High School & that year I occasionally babysat my new baby cousin Jacqueline.

Daphne Kessinger - April 15, 2020 at 09:05 AM