



Jessie Reese Layton

February 24, 1934 - December 25, 2019

On Christmas Day, December 25, 2019, Jessie Reese Layton, loving husband and father, passed away at home with his sweetheart by his side, from the ravages of Lewy body dementia. He was 85.

Reese, as he was known by all who knew and loved him, was born into humble circumstances on February 24, 1934 in Thomaston Georgia to Perry and Addie Belle (Reeves) Layton. He was the youngest of 10 children. As the son of a Southern Baptist Preacher, he grew up in a very strict home.

Reese learned the value of work at a young age and held a wide variety of jobs throughout his childhood and early teenage years. He moved to California when he was 14. This is where his life-long career took root as he started working for his brothers in the construction industry.

Reese married Sara McKimmey in 1951 at the age of 17 and about 2 years later had his first daughter, Debra Ann. The marriage didn't last and Sara returned to Georgia, taking Debby with her.

Reese met his sweetheart on New Year's Eve in 1955 and they were engaged a few months later. He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1956. Shortly thereafter, Reese was drafted by the Army. He married Elaine Smout in August 1957 in the Los Angeles Temple, only 1 week before reporting to the Canal Zone in the Republic of Panama.

During the years following the Army, Reese and Elaine raised their growing family in El Monte and Glendora California. They were blessed with a daughter, Barbara and sons Michael and Bill. Debby came to live with them in 1969 and they also had the opportunity to have a foster daughter, Dursilla June, join the family for a few years, and later, a foster son, Henry Josley, became part of the family. Just when they thought they wouldn't be blessed with more children, they found out they were expecting and Jeffery arrived in

1981.

One trait that Reese is known far and wide for is the way he quietly helped others. Whether replacing water heaters, air conditioners, roofs or simply helping fix a broken toy, he was there. He taught others how to roof so they could earn money and he helped on countless building projects. His charitable heart knew no limits; he found great joy in serving others.

Reese and Elaine moved to Pleasant Grove, Utah in 1998, although they didn't stay put very long. They had the opportunity to serve four missions in Nauvoo for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving a total of about seven years between 2002-2012. Reese used his construction background as he worked with NRI (Nauvoo Restoration Inc.) maintaining historical sites and missionary housing by day, and he participated in theatrical productions at night. On Sunday's he served as a guide at the various historical sites.

Reese is survived by his wife of 62 years, Elaine Smout Layton; his daughters Debby Layton of Rochester, NY and Barbara Brown of Frisco, TX; his sons Michael (Mary Ellen) Layton of Glendora, CA and Jeffrey Layton of Austin, TX; his foster children Dursilla June Charley (Joe) of Tuba City, AZ and Henry Josley of Page, AZ; his brother Perry Layton of Glendora, CA; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, five sisters, and his son Bill.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, January 4, 2020, at 11:00 am, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1541 North 1300 West, Pleasant Grove, Utah, where a Viewing will be held prior to services from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Interment with Military Honors in Pleasant Grove City Cemetery.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

Pleasant Grove City Cemetery

600 North 100 West
Pleasant Grove, UT, 84062

Events

JAN **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1541 North 1300 West, Pleasant Grove, UT, US,
84062

JAN **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

4

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1541 North 1300 West, Pleasant Grove, UT, US,
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Comments



“ He was a great example of a willing worker when we were in Nauvoo. I enjoyed his great spirit and love. Love to his family.
Bob Palmer

Bob Palmer - January 04, 2020 at 09:48 PM



“ We had the privilege of serving the Reese and Elaine in Nauvoo from May 2007-Nov.2008. What a sweet wonderful couple they were. We never saw either one of them without a smile on their faces. Reese was ALWAYS helping someone with whatever needed to be done at the time. His energy was endless and he was always so very kind and patient. It didn't matter what he was called to work on, large or small, it was completed with perfection and exactness. His testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ radiated from his face, he was a true follower and disciple of Christ. What a wonderful example he was to his fellow missionaries. We love him!
Lynn and Konnie Larsen

Lynn and Konnie Larsen - January 03, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ I loved Reese's smile. I remember his joy at participating in Temple Endowment towards the end of his life—he was at home with His Savior there.

Allison Drew - January 03, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ Reese was a great friend. We have always admired him and he was a great example of the gospel and service to others. It was always Reese and Elaine as a duo. We used to have firesides in their home. I am sure he will have a service project to work on with his family that will be waiting for him. Love and prayers for Elaine and all of the family.

Kathy Rask - January 01, 2020 at 12:28 PM



“ Debby Layton lit a candle in memory of Jessie Reese Layton



Debby Layton - December 31, 2019 at 05:45 PM



“ Elder Humphreys and I really appreciated Elder Layton. I personally appreciated his craftsmanship and how he could just make things work and look so nice. I learned to love both of them while working in the office. Elaine send you and your family our sincere love and sympath.

Bob and Donna Jean humphreys - December 31, 2019 at 06:12 PM



“ Elder Layton truly was a great missionary and friend along with his sweet wife Elaine. It was a privilege to serve with them and we well remember sharing a dinner with them in their little home in Nauvoo. Owen (E/ Speirs) recalls one day when he was digging a trench at the Clark Store that NRI had to do in preparations for the new Family History Center to be built. Although not his assignment, E/Layton showed up and helped back fill the trench with a shovel and clean up afterwards. He was like the Energy Bunny, always on the go and willing to pitch in when ever he saw a need. His life touched so many.

May you find peace and comfort as you recall special memories you shared with your good husband and feel the Lord's love and blessings in the coming days. We love you.

Owen and Claire Speirs

Owen Speirs - December 31, 2019 at 10:45 AM



“ Thank you. I know that Reese enjoyed serving with you. He loved to serve.

Elaine Layton - January 10, 2020 at 04:50 PM



“ We had the privilege of serving more than one Nauvoo mission with Laytons. They were always delightful in spite of circumstances. Elder Layton was a remarkable handyman. There aren't many like him. May the Lord comfort and bless you Elaine.
Don and Amy Nagel

Amy - December 31, 2019 at 12:54 AM



“ Thank you so much.

Elaine Layton - January 10, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Elder Layton was one of my favorite Missionaries! He was always smiling and willing to tackle some of the hardest things to do--like the day I called him over to my little home to fix a 45 year old brass lock on my front door. It kept "Locking" us OUT! And on other days it would not lock at all. Elder Layton worked and worked because he knew that in its day, the lock was an expensive solid brass one. He tried every way possible to make it work another 45 years! Finally, after many tries, he conceded that this lock had seen "better days" and he ordered a new lock, which he said was just not the quality of the original one. He was trying to save the mission a little money. I will forever be grateful for his goodness in making us feel safe in our home. He was such a hard worker and so good to help us single sisters!

Then there was a very funny experience that Elder Layton was called in to remedy in our always wet basement. Several of the brethren had worked for days building a new sump pump to remedy our problem. They had dug a new hole, filled it partly with cement, some gravel and a fancy new pump. It looked just perfect! Except we called Elder Layton when the whole basement flooded. His skills became apparent soon after his arrival. He checked the electric switch and flipped it on. Suddenly the sump pump whirred "ON" and worked perfectly. The former workers had forgotten just one last thing to do--"Flip the Switch"! Elder Layton once again, came to our rescue!

Elder Layton LIVED the Golden Rule and served with a smile and a Testimony of our Savior Jesus Christ. And His wife is one of the finest ladies and Missionaries I know. I LOVE YOU Sister Layton. We are praying for the Holy Ghost to comfort you and keep you close in His wonderful care at this tender time.

We ALL Love YOU,

Carol Gibson

Carol J. Gibson - December 31, 2019 at 12:20 AM



“ We love the Layton's too. When we served in the Nauvoo Visitor's Center Elder Layton was constantly fixing something at anyone's request. Once we came in and he was lying flat on the floor fixing something under a door someone requested. I was astonished to see this loving, caring, gentle, aging man in such a position. He was humbly filling a request.

We were blessed to visit them here in Texas.

Sister Layton accomplished so much significant work in Land and Records.

We pray that His overriding Comfort will ease your loss dear Sister Layton.

Steve & Pat "the Texas Jones"

Steve & Pat "Texas" Jones - December 31, 2019 at 12:59 AM



“ Thank you. My husband was always thinking of others before himself. I appreciate your prayers.

Elaine Layton - January 10, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Carol, I know that my husband always wanted to take care of the single sisters. He truly loved to help others.

Elaine Layton - January 10, 2020 at 04:54 PM



“ It was a special privilege to serve with Elder and Sister Layton as missionaries in Nauvoo. What a kind loving sweet man he was and how we enjoyed associating with him and Sister Layton. Our thought, prayers and love are with you and your family.

Heber and Rosalie Kirkland - December 30, 2019 at 11:12 PM



“ We love the Laytons. We were missionaries together in Nauvoo. Such a loving giving couple. We will miss him. Lize yiu Elaine.

Mike and Louise Young - December 30, 2019 at 11:41 PM



“ Love you Elaine

Mike and Louise Young - December 30, 2019 at 11:42 PM



“ I loved to work with him at NRI He was a gerat man

Gary Jaster - December 30, 2019 at 11:47 PM



“ great

Gary Jaster - December 30, 2019 at 11:49 PM



“ I have known Debby for many years and she is incredibly proud of her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you Debby and your family at this very hard time. I am so happy to were able to spend some time with your dad recently. God bless!

The Rowe Family - December 31, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ Thank you so very much for you love an prayers

Debby Layton - December 31, 2019 at 08:01 PM



“ Sweet Elaine - (my-first name twin)

I am so saddened that this day has come to you to be parted (for a short time) from your sweetheart. I have a feeling my dear Len was one of those greeting Bro. Layton as he entered the beautiful realm prepared for the faithful. I well know the sorrow you feel. Coupled with those sad feelings will be a warm assurance that he is close by and you will be lifted up.

He was an outstanding example to Elder Ellis and me of a grand ministering angel to us and so many other missionaries. We had a bathroom in our original little Nauvoo home that looked just like a 1930 bath - fixtures, plumbing and all. We felt bad to keep asking for help to keep it functioning. Elder Layton was always quick to show up on our doorstep with his endearing smile and tool box in hand

My prayers are with you, Elaine, that you will be comforted and feel the loving influence and blessings of our Savior in your days ahead.

Love,

Elaine Ellis

Elaine Ellis - December 31, 2019 at 09:10 PM



“ Reese Layton is an amazing Tradesman, capable of handling most any situation that has to do with building, finishing, repairs and general upkeep of about any structure. My wife, Patricia - who now resides with Reese and other of our loved ones in Paradise, and I met the Laytons in the 70's when we moved to Glendora, CA where we lived for 35 years and raised our three children in the same Ward as the Laytons. Many projects and activities brought Patricia and me in contact with Reese and Elaine as they were most always right in the thick of helping make everything run well. Working for 32 years in the Young Men's program, I had occasion to interface with many boys on dozens of projects and adventures. Their son Mike was one of those boys. I called him my All American Boy because he knew how to get things done having grown up at the side of his talented father who not only knew how to get things done, but insisted on doing them excellently. I always knew I could count on Mike to come through in grand style because that was how he was taught by Reese from his childhood. Responsible, Dependable, Always Ready to Give A Hand - Reese was a jewel and a gentleman and in my view, a real man with unique talent and caring personality. God Bless his memory and May Our Lord Bless and Comfort Elaine and their family during this parting time. It will be a great day when they all meet Reese again, they will know him in a minute because he will have his tool box and big smile and steady handshake and "gran abrazo" ready for the occasion!

Clayson Wells Lyman

Clayson Wells "chris" Lyman - January 03, 2020 at 02:06 AM