



## Joseph Brad Burton

April 24, 1948 - May 9, 2019

Joseph Brad Burton died on May 9, 2019 at his home after a long battle with cancer. He was born on April 24, 1948 to Robert Chandler Burton (deceased) and Louise Fielding Burton in Idaho Falls, Idaho. He was the second of four brothers (Brent, Blaine and Brian of Idaho Falls). He attended Idaho Falls High School and subsequently enrolled at Brigham Young University.

He served an LDS mission to the British Mission from 1967-1969, where he met many lifelong friends. He returned to school at BYU and studied English and Psychology and earned a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Brad met Debra Bawden in 1971. They dated at BYU and were married in the Salt Lake Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on August 22, 1972. After graduation, they moved to San Fernando, California in 1976 with their young family. Brad began his career with LDS Family Services, becoming agency director in Burbank. He quickly adopted the Los Angeles Dodgers as his team and enjoyed watching or going to games whenever he could. He served as bishop of the San Fernando Ward for several years and in other callings in the Granada Hills Stake.

Eventually, Brad and Debbie moved to Provo, Utah, where Brad worked at the BYU Comprehensive Clinic and with missionaries facing mental health issues at the Missionary Training Center. They raised a family of eight children - Joseph Brad, Jr. (Dicy, deceased), Matt (Carrie), Karalee Jacobsen (Craig), Marianne Millar (Jed), Emily Long (Matt), John (Joy), Marc (Cami), and Erica. Much of Brad's work and church service was focused on improving the lives of youth and young adults. He was a passionate sports fan, and checked in every morning on BYU sports and Dodger news in the newspaper. He retired from LDS Family Services in February 2019 after 43 years of dedicated service.

Brad taught us lessons of faith and determination and how to have joy in spite of medical challenges. He endured well through countless rounds of chemotherapy and had an attitude of hope through all of it. The family would like to express its appreciation to the

doctors and nurses of the Huntsman Cancer Institute and MD Anderson Cancer Center who worked to extend Brad's life and provide many years of health for the past twenty years, dear friends and neighbors for their faith and acts of service, and family members who exemplified Christ-like service in small and great ways.

Brad's greatest legacy is his family - his dear wife, eight children and twenty-seven grandchildren who look up to him as a loving example.

Funeral Services will be held Friday, May 17th, at 11:00 am, at the Grandview 14th Ward, 1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, Utah, where Visitations will be held Thursday, May 16th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm and prior to services on Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Interment in the East Lawn Memorial Hills Cemetery, Provo, Utah.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

# Cemetery

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## East Lawn Memorial Hills

4800 North 650 East  
Provo, UT, 84604

# Events

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**MAY 16** **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM  
Grandview 14th Ward  
1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, UT, US, 84604

**MAY 17** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM  
Grandview 14th Ward  
1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, UT, US, 84604

**MAY 17** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM  
Grandview 14th Ward  
1122 Grand Avenue, Provo, UT, US, 84604

# Comments

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“ Brad’s Funeral was a wonderful tribute to his life, character and humor. Each of his children brought back found memories and stood as an eternal tribute to a faithful dedicated husband and father!

**Dennis Ashton** - May 31, 2019 at 05:59 PM

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“ Mrs. Burton, Brent, Blaine and Brian, this comes with my love and sincere condolences in the loss of your son and brother. Mrs. Burton, I know you have raised a wonderful family, as I know these three sons and they are outstanding men.

Love,  
Pat Noble

**Pat Noble** - May 20, 2019 at 12:55 PM

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“ Brad: kind, caring, sense of humor, interested in others, calmly went about solving problems. Thanks for your good influence on me. Steve ZoBell

**Steve ZoBell** - May 17, 2019 at 03:46 PM

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“ Debbie and family,

I want to share my love and appreciation for Brad and you for our association over the years. I retired too many years ago so haven't been as involved for the last decade or so, but I know the time we determined to upgrade the professional skills of our staff, realizing that we wanted our practitioners to be the very best. Brad was part of that experience and was influential in strengthening other staff who in turn blessed many people through their counseling to have richer and more productive lives. There is no way to measure the good he has done for other people.

And having served as a mission president, I found that LDS Family Services wasn't just something I worked at for a living for years, but it became an essential resource for me, especially when serving in Provo and having the advantage of having the help so close.

Debbie, obviously I don't know you as well as I did Brad, but I always remember your smile and pleasant personality and always appreciated the opportunity to say hi to you and exchange a few words.

Penny and I send our love and best wishes to you and your family. Even with such a devastating loss, you have the assurance of eternity together and all we believe is true! Sincerely,

Harold Brown

Harold - May 17, 2019 at 11:20 AM

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“ Every contact that we had with Brad was a blessing. Our association at LDS was gracious and helpful. He and I spent over 30 years each engaged in the work. We extend to you our love and appreciation for each kindness and for the happiness and the personal growth he fostered not only in missionaries putting everyone else that he touched. May heaven bless you and keep you safe in the arms of the Savior.  
Paul and Martha Carroll-Richfield, Utah

Paul Carroll - May 16, 2019 at 11:13 PM

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“ Brad was so gentle and loving towards all the missionaries he served. We all loved him. I could always count on him to defend and love the missionaries to the end. We counseled together many times on how to best help these young men and women in the MTC. I will surely miss him.

Daniel Mehr

Daniel Mehr - May 16, 2019 at 08:41 AM

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“ Brad was a tremendous influence on my life. As a dumb teenager, he and Debbie put up with me being a constant presence at their home. I learned so much from him. He was always kind to me and helped me sort through a lot of my confusing adolescence. He also produced, with Debbie, a ton of the best people I ever had the opportunity to know. I truly loved him and grieve with the Burton family.

Danny Hurley - May 15, 2019 at 12:22 PM

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“ Whether as a practitioner, agency director, trainer or MTC employee Brad has always been a remarkable man who's done an exceptional job in any assignment. At the time of our last contact, which was at the MTC and not long before his passing, he was still interested in what was going on in the professional world and was keeping up on the literature. He laughed about some of the trends of the day and wondered what the next football season would bring. He was a spiritual man who lived comfortably in this worldly world.

Brent Scharman - May 14, 2019 at 11:16 AM

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“ A wonderful part of Brad's legacy is the wisdom he imparted to those with whom he worked and those he counseled. The ripple of his influence will be carried far beyond those he directly helped; into the lives of countless others. I'll miss his humor, wit, and wisdom, too.

Steve Johnson  
Co-worker

Steve - May 13, 2019 at 04:48 PM

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“ I have known Brad for years at the MTC but didn't work with him directly on a daily basis. I had no idea he was battling cancer, but then again, that is just like him to not call any attention to himself. He was ALWAYS so very friendly and cheerful every time I saw him or passed him in the hallways. He was a gentle giant to me and I always knew his strong testimony of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I know he will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. Heaven gained an angel last week that's for sure. Blessings to you his family.

Heidi Van Woerkom  
MTC friend

Heidi Van Woerkom - May 13, 2019 at 02:53 PM

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“ I have known Brad for the past 24 years through our employment at LDS Family Services.  
While we never worked together in the same office, I always knew that Brad was my friend and looking out for me. Brad brought a sense of calm to every situation and you could always feel his warmth and generosity. Brad made the world a better place, even when he felt lousy, although most of the time you never really knew how lousy he felt. Brad was simply the best and I am better off for knowing him. Thank you Brad for your great example and kindness. I will miss you.  
Stephanie Miner

Stephanie Miner - May 13, 2019 at 02:33 PM

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“ "I am eternally grateful for the opportunity of working with this wonderful man. I loved his sense of humor, wisdom, direction, caring for others, etc. etc. etc. He has fought a valiant fight. The world needs more Brad Burton's. At work the office brightened up when he came in. We were always so happy to see him. He was so loved, respected and revered. He was such a great example to me. I still quote him from time to time. He will forever be in my heart. Even though expected, it is still hard to loose a loved one. My prayer is that his family will feel peace and comfort during the days and years to come. Even though he is gone physically he will always be near in spirit.  
Marjean Deeben

Marjean - May 13, 2019 at 12:30 PM

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“ Loved having Brother Burton as my YM leader growing up. Great memories of a wonderful neighbor and a man full of so much wisdom.

**Steve Schneider** - May 13, 2019 at 12:09 PM

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“ I am grateful that Brad's physical suffering has come to an end! What strong and faithful endurance he has shown. His wife Deb as well! They are noble souls. Brad and I were hired a year or so apart at Family Services and so I have had much opportunity to learn from him over many years! What a great mentor! I cannot express enough the value of my long-term association and friendship with him! He was not only clinically wise but sound in judgment! I will deeply miss him! His legacy with missionaries is only one part of his long career. For years he was a great part of Family Services Evaluation and Training and produced wonderful and professionally sound materials. Most of all I enjoyed laughing with him, especially over issues that came up in Family Services. Laughing and smiling often took the sting away from challenging issues and situations! Those times have and will continue to serve me well! Brad was a great blessing to all of us that have known him!  
Mark Glade

**Mark Glade** - May 13, 2019 at 10:34 AM



“ I had the privilege to work with Brad back in California, where he was director of the agency, he was outstanding in his management style. He was interested in others in such a genuine way that you just learned to respect and love him. Another great soul has left us and at the same time left us with warm memories. Yes Brad we will miss you!

Xio R. Brown

**xio brown** - May 16, 2019 at 09:21 PM

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“ Brad and Debbie have always been good friends. Each of us had worked with Brad and Debbie at our jobs. Brad was a long-time co worker for Wes. He was especially helpful to one of our children during a tough time. You don't really say good-bye to people like Brad; you just wait until you can embrace them again on the other side. With much love and sympathy for Debbie and their children.  
Wes and Lois Matheson

**Wes Matheson** - May 12, 2019 at 10:28 PM