



Michael Barta Roberts

April 2, 1953 - April 14, 2019

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Perhaps the choirs of heaven needed another tenor, or maybe he wanted a higher, better view of his beloved Wasatch Mountains, but on April 14, 2019, Michael Barta Roberts passed on from this good life.

Mike was born in Ogden, Utah on April 2, 1953, to Neva Jeane Roberts and Ernest Purnell Roberts. Raised in Ogden, he learned from his parents to work hard, be a dedicated student, and care for friends and strangers in their times of need. His parents learned patience as Mike regularly found new ways to break bones, crash vehicles, and tease his younger siblings.

He graduated from Ogden High School (1971), where he participated in choir, theater, track, and general shenanigans. After high school, Mike served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Munich, Germany. An eager learner, Mike earned a Bachelor Degree in Psychology from Weber State College (1977), and a Master Degree in Education from Brigham Young University (1985).

His finest achievement was persuading Karen Simpson to marry him in the Salt Lake LDS Temple on November 14, 1975. Mike adored Karen, and he would often surprise her with sweet notes and flowers. Together they raised nine children in Provo's Edgemont and Pleasant View neighborhoods. Their home a refuge filled with faith, games, sports, compassion, music, stories, and cookies.

As newlyweds, Mike and Karen set off into the blustery high desert of Green River, Wyoming, where Mike began his career working for Church Education Systems (CES) as a seminary teacher. Until his retirement in 2016, Mike joyfully worked in the CES high school seminaries and college institutes, from Green River (1977) to Timpview Seminary (1981), to Orem Institute (1996) and back to Timpview Seminary (2009), and finally with

CES's Adapted Needs program (2013). Mike loved his work and considered it a divine blessing to be employed to teach scriptures.

An eloquent orator, Mike's voice and testimony forged human connections to the endless possibilities of the spiritual. Inspired by Jesus Christ, Mike devoted himself to living his faith by visiting the sick, lifting the weary, and praying alongside the seemingly hopeless. He particularly looked after the young people in his life, offering kind reminders to his children, grandchildren, and students that he and God loved them. Among his church service, Mike served as a bishop and in several bishoprics and stake presidencies. He enjoyed a tour of duty as a scoutmaster and cherished being a primary teacher.

Mike loved life. Before his health failed, Mike and Karen travelled regularly, finding joy in the adventure of places new to them and meeting people from all over the world. With children and grandchildren spread across the United States, Mike and Karen's travels over the years nearly always focused on visiting family or inviting family to join in the vacation. Mike and Karen treasured date nights at the theater and were especially fond of musicals. Mike filled his life with music and sought opportunities to sing out loud, always taking great pleasure in being a member of church choirs. Cast as Tevye in a local production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mike found a role that matched his voice and humanity. Mike was an excellent racquetball player and remains the reigning Roberts ping pong champion. He taught his children and willing scouts the art of the "mountain man bath" as he would swim in the frigid winter waves of the Pacific Ocean or the glacier runoff in alpine lakes. In recent years, Mike would often sit on his porch watching storm clouds move across Provo's rising peaks, in awe of the natural beauty all around him. He would tell us all to go be amazed.

Mike is survived by his wife, Karen Simpson Roberts; his nine children, Richard Roberts (Jessica), Christopher Roberts (Allyson), Ryan Roberts (Hailee), Elizabeth "Lisa" Pierson (Shane), Matthew Roberts (Lisa), Emily Gregersen (Matthew), Jacob Roberts, Joseph Roberts, and Taylor Roberts; seventeen grandchildren, Darby, Jonah, Camille, Eliza, Chloe, Tess, Sydney, Jack, James, Grace, Sophie, Gavin, Lily, Luke, Quinn, Sadie, and Cohen; and, his siblings, Les Roberts (Julie) and Susan Roberts.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Neva Jeane and Ernest Roberts, his father-and-mother-in-law, Joseph and Louise Simpson, and his grandson, Owen Roberts.

Funeral Services will be held, Friday, April 19, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sharon East Stake Center, 1060 East 2400 North, Provo, Utah. Family and friends may visit on Thursday, April 18, 2019, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the church and prior to services on

Friday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Interment will be in Provo's East Lawn Memorial Hills Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to LDS Humanitarian Services.

Funeral Directors: Utah Valley Mortuary.

Cemetery

East Lawn Memorial Hills

4800 North 650 East
Provo, UT, 84604

Events

APR 18 **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Provo Sharon East Stake Center
1060 East 2400 North, Provo, UT, US, 84604

APR 19 **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

Provo Sharon East Stake Center
1060 East 2400 North, Provo, UT, US, 84604

APR 19 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM - 12:00PM

Provo Sharon East Stake Center
1060 East 2400 North, Provo, UT, US, 84604

Comments



“ He was my bishop before. He helped at special needs Instiute. He was a great guy came to the hospital when something bad happened

Maria Peluso - April 21, 2019 at 11:51 PM



“ Wow will miss that guy. Sometimes in classof you were not looking up you would habe thpugjt a prophet waz speaking he had that type of caring voice.

Marie Jones - April 20, 2019 at 07:59 PM



“ I was just thinking about Brother Roberts the other day. I am saddened to learn of his passing. I had him as a seminary teacher at Timp many, many years ago, but have thought of him often through the years and still can remember his kindness, and joy he would show when we would walk into class and his love of the gospel. He had such passion when he shared the gospel, you could tell how much he loved the Lord and our Savior and how much he enjoyed sharing it with us. He will be greatly missed by so many. I am honored to have had him as a teacher. May the Lord bless your family always
Lacey Nichols Wilson

Lacey Wilson - April 19, 2019 at 02:11 AM



“ Mike will be missed terribly. His kind heart, gentle voice, and quick wit drew all in. He is so broad and intelligent on so many topics we could talk for hours about family history (he's a genius), World War II, acting, plays, music--you name it he knew it. I loved most of all engaging in gospel conversations with him. He was stalwart in his convictions. He raised a wonderful family (Jake!) and has a beautiful wife Karen! What a legacy he left! I pray God's choicest blessings of peace and comfort upon you all. Thank you for sharing him with us.
God be with you til we meet again, Mike.
Your friend and colleague,

Karen Hepworth

karen hepworth - April 18, 2019 at 10:52 PM



“ To the family of brother/president/friend Mike Roberts - I wish my words were enough to remove pain, he was more than great, he is an amazing man. Between being my seminary teacher, father of my friend, councilor in my stake presidency, and for a brief time my boss in the seminary program, what an impact on my life. I'm sure that right now he's with my dad who's probably saying "we'll show you around later, let's get to work right away" because I can't see Mike as anything other than testifying of his Savior and friend. He ran the course well! Thanks for sharing your dad and husband with me, the impact on my life will never be forgotten.

Josh Sybrowsky - April 18, 2019 at 04:23 PM



“ Mike Roberts was my friend and colleague. I loved him for many reasons including his profound love of the Savior, his passion for teaching the youth of the Church, and for his childlike delight in all that was holy and good. I loved his smile, his laughter, and his energy in the classroom. The Spirit World just received another magnificent missionary!!!

We share and send our love to you Karen, and to each of your family members. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Gratefully we know, as Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin profoundly declared: "That no matter how dark our Friday, Sunday will always come." ("Sunday Will Come," CR. October 2006.)

Elder and Sister (Rich and Robyn) Robins
N.Y. Rochester Mission

Richard Robins - April 18, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ Brother Roberts was my seminary teacher over 25 years ago. He taught me about the Savior and the atonement and shared his piano playing skills with our class daily! He was always happy to see us and in such a happy mood. I thought it was so awesome that he could play the piano I made my boys all learn the piano and those boys now play the organ in sacrament meeting. He made such an impact in my life. I pray the Roberts family can find peace at this time. Sincerely, Carolina (Sosa) Townsend

Carolina Townsend - April 17, 2019 at 12:07 AM



“ Brother Dear Michael Roberts was a great gentleman, husband, father , and friend to many. We loved his presence and example. May you all, his cherished family, feel the comfort, peace and love from Heavenly Father and our Savior in knowing your beloved is watching over you with true joy and devotion. May Love IAbide Forever, ,
The David & Susan Tomlinson Family,

Susan Tomlinson - April 16, 2019 at 11:13 PM