



Ralph Vernon Larson

June 10, 1939 - November 1, 2021

****NOTE:** Please click the following link to view Ralph's services via live stream at 11:00 am:

<http://mywebcast.churchofjesuschrist.org/oremutahsunsetheightsstake>

Ralph Vernon Larson was born in Logan, Utah, on June 10, 1939, to Dr. Rudolph Vernon and Helen Calder Larson. He spent his early years in Smithfield, Utah; Tacoma, Washington; and Vernal, Utah. In 1947 the family moved to Roosevelt, Utah, where his father was the town doctor. His childhood was happy. His job at the Larsen Bottling Plant as a teenager defined his work ethic throughout his life. He graduated from Union High School in 1957, attended Dixie College in St. George for one year, and then moved to Logan, Utah to attend Utah State University. He valued and maintained friendships from these years for the rest of his life.

In 1959, he received a mission call from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to serve in the Helsinki Finland Mission, sharing the gospel message. His 2 1/2 years in Finland influenced the rest of his life. Ralph loved the Finnish people, language, culture, and history. After his mission he returned to Utah State University and studied political science. Ralph met Gerri Chatwin on a blind date, and they were married in the Logan temple on April 30, 1964. They immediately left for Bloomington, Indiana, where Ralph attended graduate school at Indiana University. He earned a masters' degree in political science in 1966. He earned a Ph.D. in Uralic and Altaic studies in August 1972.

Ralph worked at I.U. in the department of continuing education until 1977 and then took a job with the National Drug Abuse Center in Washington DC, where the family lived in Vienna, Virginia. In 1979 the family moved to Orem, Utah, and in 1980 Ralph began work with Brigham Young University in the Division of Continuing Education. He held various positions at BYU and retired in 2006 as the director of evening classes. Following retirement Ralph and Gerri served a mission in the Helsinki Finland Temple.

Ralph's life was full of service within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He

was a faithful home teacher, a bishop several times in the single's wards at BYU and UVU, and a branch president at the Missionary Training Center in Provo Utah. He was devoted and diligent in his service, and he blessed many lives. He frequently told his family, "I have always had believing blood," as he referred to his testimony of Jesus Christ. His example of hard work and trust in the Lord is a great legacy to family and friends.

Ralph passed away peacefully at home on November 1, 2021 after suffering with Parkinson's and dementia for several years. The family would like to thank the nurses and aides at A Plus Home and Hospice Care, especially Judy Escobar, for their dedicated and loving service.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Gerri; his six children, Lynette (Jeff) McMullin, Carolyn (Eric) Landon, Richard (Becky) Larson, Janet (Jason) Asay, Michael (Candace) Larson, David (Karalee) Larson; 30 grandchildren; and 5 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his four brothers, Jon, (Sally-deceased), Carl (Margaret), Paul (Miriam), Don (Becky); his sister Ann (Peter-deceased) Ellis; and their families.

A viewing will be held on Sunday November 7th from 5 pm to 7 pm at Utah Valley Mortuary, 1966 West 700 North, Lindon Utah. Funeral services will be held Monday, November 8th, at 11:00 am, at the Sunset Heights Stake Center at 1260 South 400 West in Orem, Utah, with a viewing preceding the funeral from 9:30 am to 10:30 am at the same location. Interment in the Smithfield Cemetery.

Cemetery

Smithfield Cemetery

300 East Center Street
Smithfield, UT,

Events

NOV 7 **Viewing** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

Utah Valley Mortuary
1966 West 700 North, Lindon, UT, US, 84042

NOV 8 **Viewing** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

Sunset Heights Stake Center
1260 South 400 West, Orem, UT, US

NOV 8 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM

Sunset Heights Stake Center
1260 South 400 West, Orem, UT, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Utah Valley Mortuary - November 07, 2021 at 02:11 PM



“ My husband and I were in the same ward in Bloomington, Indiana with the Larsons while my husband was attending I.U. in the Uralic Altaic program. One day at church I saw Ralph walking into the chapel. He was surrounded by light and it was like he had a hallow around his head. I knew that he was a holy man and the Lord loved him. That is the only time in my life I have ever seen light around a person.
Dianne Bjarnson (Eric Bjarnson)

Dianne Bjarnson - April 08 at 11:13 AM



“ Dear Gerri: it has been so many years but we never forget you two amazing people. We heard about Ralph's passing after the fact or we would have loved to attend. We are appreciative to Goodliffs letting us know.
You and Ralph are the best people and were so friendly and kind to us in Finland. Loved Ralph's cheerful greeting and tender feelings for the Lord's House. I loved his care for his shoes. His desire was to keep the Lord's temple spotless. As a sign of respect, he washed the soles of his shoes. I loved that show of respect for our Father's House, The Temple in Finland. Finland also meant a lot to Ralph. He was showing respect for Finnish people and their land too.
We love you Gerri and wish we were closer to visit in person. Love and prayers. Ilona and Earl Nielsen



Earl and Ilona Nielsen - November 12, 2021 at 10:13 AM



“ A justified, humble man of God. If it was not for him, I would not be where I am today. Elder Larsen, Finland and the world thanks you for your mortal service. Rest in the Lord and His many blessings. You get to reunite with my parents and many, many friends and family again. I bet that is happy reunion. Gerri and David and rest of the family, I am so sorry for your loss. I do pray for you all daily. Always. I love you all dearly. With love, your sister in Christ

Jana Roders - November 11, 2021 at 02:41 AM



“ Harry & I were so sorry to hear about Ralph's passing. We remember the Larson family from nearly 50 years ago and the significant role Ralph played in Harry's conversion. We express to all the family our condolences on this great loss. When Harry was baptized (Dec 1972) Ralph arrived just after the baptism had been performed. Harry & Dave Marcyes, who baptized him, were dressing & Ralph came in to apologize for being late. He asked Harry if there was anything he could do for him, and Harry said "yes, would you please confirm me." Ralph apologized and said he would love to but he was not dressed with a tie, whereupon Dave handed him his tie & Ralph put it on and subsequently pronounced a wonderful blessing on Harry. This has always remained such a good example to us of how seriously Ralph took his priesthood responsibilities and his respect for performing priesthood ordinances "at his best."
All our love, Harry & Flora Barker

Flora Barker - November 09, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ Ralph was a good and great man. I worked with him at BYU, and we served together in an MTC branch presidency. Always cheerful, genuinely interested in others, focused on the things that matter most--those are the foremost traits I admired in Ralph. He was a blessing to others and an influence for good in every setting in which I knew him. He's a man to be missed. All the best to Gerri and their family.
Ron Woods

Ron Woods - November 08, 2021 at 08:45 AM



“ Ralph was such a kind and loving man. He stepped into the role of being a grandpa to our children. He watched Saturday afternoon football games with my youngest son, Andrew. I enjoyed coming over for lunch and hearing him speak. Geri you have always had a special place in my heart. I love you both!

Peggy Muench - November 07, 2021 at 02:56 PM



“ Ralph exuded a genuine concern for others and in the years I was involved with Education Week and Know Your Religion assignments, his support, thoroughness and attitude of cheerful service was enriching of the whole experience for me. I did not know his roots were in Cache Valley, where my dad's family also lives. That increases his stature all the more. All the best to the family as they remember his stellar life.
--Terry Olson

Terry Olson - November 07, 2021 at 09:51 AM



“ Gerri, I am so sorry for your loss. Because we are on a Panama Canal Cruise we are unable to be at his funeral. We will not be home until November 15th. I guess that we need to quit traveling because each time we go on a vacation someone special dies. Creig Ross died while we were on a vacation in California. And many family members have died while we have traveled. It really breaks my heart that I can't be at his funeral because he was my very best friend. I truly loved Ralph. I will miss him he was a great man, he was so smart in high school and I really admired him.

As you know Ralph and I were best friends forever. As kids we lived next door and we did everything together, hunting, fishing and chasing girls. One night we double dated and Ralph's dad let us take his new Ford car that he had just purchased. We were really late getting home, his dad had called the police because he thought we had gotten in an accident. When Ralph got home he was grounded for a full week. Another time we were hunting ducks and not seen any at this time, we saw some white ducks swimming in a river, Ralph shot one of the duck, we found out they were a farmers tame duck. Ralph had to pay the farmer for the duck that he shot.

Max Collotzi - November 06, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ Such a kind and patient man. I have many fond memories of Ralph at BYU. Everyone loved him, especially the customers. I have a specific memory of Ralph teaching me to use his abacus around 1990. And I still have a fly he tied - a red butt skunk. I won't forget his big smile or the twinkle in his eye. Such a great guy!

I'm so sorry for your loss and the grief that comes with it. I appreciate that I was able to share some time with Ralph during my life. He made a difference and he will be remembered.

Shelly Farmer - November 06, 2021 at 12:55 PM



“ I got to know Veli Larson at BYU. His class was a highlight of my time in Provo. I was a bad student and ruined my academic standing soon after doing great in his class. I talked to him, and he mentored me, nursing me back to academic health. He didn't have to, but he invested extra time, and I could not be more grateful. I graduated, got married, and went on to grad school all in part because this good man refused to give up on me.

Tony John - November 04, 2021 at 07:15 PM



“ Ralf was my Bishop when I was a student at BYU 1984. He was my friend from then on. He was a man without guile. He knew his Savior because he had become like him. He was equally yoked with his trophy wife Gerry. These 2 truly a power couple. I always loved to see him and be in his presence, even when he no longer knew who I was. I never left him and did not feel a little more optimistic and grateful for life and living. He was simply the very best. I will not be surprised that when it my turn to go through the veil, that after my warm embrace with my own family he will be among the first to welcome me home. He has probably already been called to serve as Bishop in the Celestial Heights 12,221st. Ward.

Delwin and Penni Frew - November 04, 2021 at 01:17 PM



“ Lovely

Elaine Merryman - November 05, 2021 at 12:17 PM



“ Ralph and I went through some very important phases of life together - missionaries to Finland, graduate students at Indiana University. It is true that he was a man without guile, always ready to help, all the time in possession of an inquisitive mind.

Charles Carlson
Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Prof Dr Charles Carlson, RFE/RL ret. - November 06, 2021 at 03:47 PM



“ I always enjoyed Ralph and his great demeanor and his sense of humor influenced me and others around him. He was a great reflection of the Master in how he treated people and went about spreading goodness. God bless and keep you good brother!

Robert Holcombe - November 04, 2021 at 11:25 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Janet Asay - November 04, 2021 at 10:04 AM



“ 12 files added to the tribute wall



Janet Asay - November 04, 2021 at 12:14 AM



“ Ralph what is the kindest most gentle Man and had a sense of humor that blessed all of our lives! His humility and spiritual strength is legend among his fellow workers in the division of continuing education at BYU where I had the privilege of working with him for nearly 30 years! He was truly a light of the gospel to all of us and especially myself! looking forward to our meeting again beyond the veil!

James Rawson - November 03, 2021 at 03:21 PM



“ So sorry for your loss.

Elaine Merryman - November 03, 2021 at 01:57 PM



“ Gerri and family,
Thinking of you at this time. I have some very sweet memories of Ralph. I remember the Suit Jacket joke he would often tell and get a good laugh from everyone. I remember the sincere and meaningful prayers he would offer. He also had a wonderful collection of many different things.....(wood, rocks, wheaties boxes and books,etc.) I know he loved his family by the way he treated them.... He will be miss for his love and kindness.
Love you all, Maxine XO

Maxine Hamblin - November 03, 2021 at 12:23 PM