



Remi Tane Mataoa

September 14, 1949 - July 2, 2021

If you would like to join the Mataoa family virtually, the following link for the YouTube stream for Saturday Funeral services will be live at 10am MST.

<https://youtu.be/N3ZwXVMTBT8>

Remi Tane Mataoa passed away July 2nd, 2021, surrounded by family and loved ones. He was born in Papeete Tahiti, French Polynesia on Sept 14th, 1949. Remi is the son of Mahuruarii Taapai Tu Mataoa and Eleonora Natuaraavahineitaitemoanatairaraha Teraiamanoa. He spent his childhood raised on the islands of Ahe, Manihi, and Tahiti alongside his eight siblings: Raymond, Lavaina, Anita, Amona, Myron, Aiona, Maeva, and Ata.

Remi attended College La Mennais in Tahiti and then moved to New Zealand where he finished his secondary education at the Church College of New Zealand alongside lifelong friends. After completing his LDS mission in Tahiti, he spent 3 years at the Church College of Hawaii where he worked at the Tahitian Village in the Polynesian Cultural Center. Remi later transferred to BYU Provo where he completed his degree in Anthropology and Archaeology. He was proud to be one of the first Tahitian students to graduate from BYU. While in college he met his wife and lifelong sweetheart Phyllis Nancy Butler. They married in the Idaho Falls Temple April 18th, 1975.

Upon graduation from BYU Remi and Phyllis left to live in Tahiti and the family doubled in size that year with the birth of twins, Teanu Scott Lindsey and Claire Tiare. Leaving the tropics of the Pacific, they returned to Idaho to continue working and raising their family with the addition of another daughter Nancy Eleonora. Two more children, Anita Velda and Blake Taapai, joined the family when Remi and Phyllis moved to Provo, Utah. South Provo became a permanent home where the couple raised their five children for many years.

Remi's life work was creating community through his family and the friends he made as he traveled throughout the world. As a translator and interpreter for The Church of Jesus Chri

st of Latter-day Saints for over 30 years, Remi built deep friendships and lifelong bonds with people in every continent. From 1983-1992 Remi translated and interpreted LDS church materials in the Tahitian language. From 1993-1996 he spent three and a half years living with his family in Manila, Philippines organizing teams throughout all of the Philippine islands as well as Micronesia and Guam. Remi returned to Utah to supervise translation teams in Haitian-Creole, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and Vietnamese. In 1998 he moved with his family to Johannesburg, South Africa, to supervise translation teams for the languages of Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. He returned to Utah to work in Salt Lake City continuing to supervise translation work in 8 languages of the Africa Southeast Area. Remi worked as the Manager of Interpretation Services for all languages until retirement in 2013. His life work will continue to influence people throughout world.

Upon retirement Remi spent the last years of his life happily serving his family. He spent his days driving grandchildren and neighborhood kids to school and home again blasting his favorite Tahitian music from the car. He attended their games, drove them to practices and supported local farmers markets scouring for treats and gifts he could bring home to those he loved.

All who know Remi Mataoa will remember him as the man with a big smile, an easy laugh, and a booming voice. Remi always had an open door, a willing heart, and a giving hand. He shared his love through generous gifts, open invitations to share a meal, lending a ride to anyone who might need a lift, and showing up to support his children, grandchildren, and friends in any way he could.

Remi is survived by his sisters: Anita Mataoa and Maeva Salem as well as extended family throughout the Islands of Tahiti, Australia, and the United States. He is survived as well by his wife, Phyllis Nancy Butler, sons Dr. Teanu Scott Mataoa (Marie Petion) and Blake Taapai Mataoa, and daughters Claire Tiare Mataoa, Nancy Eleonora Mataoa de Montero (Dr. Fidel Montero), and Anita Velda Thomas (Chris Thomas) as well as his 19 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

We extend our gratitude to the service providers of Elevation Hospice as well as the watchful care of family and friends. Hospice care providers, nurses, aides, and doctors are true angels on earth. The loving care we received in the last months of Remi's life made all the difference.

A viewing will be held on Friday evening, July 9th from 6-8pm at the Edgemont Stake Center located at 303 West 3700 North, Provo, Utah. A short viewing will be held at the same l

ocation the following morning, Saturday, July 10th, from 9-9:30am MST followed by Funeral Services in the chapel from 10-11am MST. If you wish to join us virtually, please watch for an update with the link which will be forthcoming.

Interment will be at the Provo City Cemetery located at 610 South State Street, Provo at 11:30am MST followed by a Celebration of Life at the Edgemont Stake Center (303 W. 3700 N. Provo, Utah) from 1-2:30pm MST.

Cemetery

Provo City Cemetery

610 South State Street
Provo, UT, 84606

Events

JUL **Viewing** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

9

Edgemont Stake Center

303 West 3700 North, Provo, UT, US

JUL **Viewing** 09:00AM - 09:30AM

10

Edgemont Stake Center

303 West 3700 North, Provo, UT, US

JUL **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

10

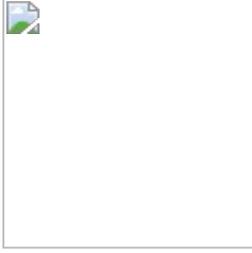
Edgemont Stake Center

303 West 3700 North, Provo, UT, US

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Utah Valley Mortuary - July 09 at 10:56 AM



“ A very kindhearted person. He loves to host parties for friends and co-workers. Enjoys and loves helping others in any way he can. Indeed a life well lived. A loved and trrasured friend to many. We will surely miss you Boss Remi... till we meet again!

Charito Santos Alferes - July 10 at 03:46 AM



“ Our family appreciated getting to know Brother Mataoa and his family. Our son Peter went on a mission to Africa and was in Ethiopia and Uganda. Brother Mataoa traveled there with his work from time to time and always made sure to take the missionaries serving there out to dinner. He and his wife lived in Shelly, Idaho during this time and we lived near Rexburg. One day he and his wife and daughter came to visit us and to let us know how Peter was doing. We appreciated his kindness and big heart so much. It meant a great deal to us that he took the time to be so generous with our son and the other missionaries and with us. We took this picture of him and his family when they came to visit us about 1998. (Rosalie Lemane)



Rosalie Lemane - July 09 at 07:31 PM



“ You will be missed Boss Remi! Am so blessed to have known you and your family. You have such a big heart, a generous and a loving person. Am glad I had the chance to meet you and Phyllis during our last visit in Utah. We love you!

Lilian San Diego - July 12 at 12:26 AM



“ I am so much grateful to be one of the beneficiaries of your love, kindness and generosity. I am so blessed that I have met you and your family when you came to the Philippines to open the area translation office in PBO. I was blessed to be part of the Ilokano translation team that you had organized. You had been a good boss and a good mentor to us. Thank you for the things I had learned from you, you always praised me for being a good translator, i owed that to you. Thank you so much for everything, you always made sure that i had a translation job. We will miss you but you will always be remembered. Goodbye Boss Remi. You are now in a better place where you dont feel pain anymore. Rest in peace.

Grace Baay - July 12 at 03:53 AM



“ I am so blessed to have met you and your family when you came to the Philippines for your job as an area translation manager. I was blessed to be a part of the translation team you have organized. You had been a good boss and a good mentor. I had learned so much from you. You treated us well as your real brothers and sisters. You had been very kind and generous to us. Thank you for the love and support you rxtended to us. You and your family have been a part of my life. We will miss you but you will always be remembered. God be with you till we meet again. Rest in peace now.

Grace Baay - July 12 at 04:03 AM



“ Dear Phyllis and family,
We were devastated to hear of Remi's passing and we're so sorry we cannot be there in person to express our condolences and celebrate his life. We are finishing up our three-year service in the Tahiti Temple. The obituary described Remi perfectly as a "man with a big smile, an easy laugh and a booming voice." What a joy it was to be with him and to learn from his example of service and selflessness. Yves especially will always remember his time serving with Remi as young missionaries in Tahiti. Remi helped him master Tahitian, which was vital because Yves did not go to the MTC but was sent straight from France to Tahiti. With Remi as his private tutor, Yves learned to love the Tahitian language, people, and culture, and Remi's impact has stayed with both of us for fifty years. Kathleen benefitted from his leadership in the Translation Department as she worked as a free-lance French translator for the Church for many years. Both of us enjoyed our association with Remi at our semi-annual Tahitian Mission Reunions and other get togethers. He was truly an example of a devoted father, friend, and disciple of Christ. May all of you feel the peace that comes through knowing that your family is eternal and that Remi is in a happy place with beloved family members, including his brother Myron who recently preceded him in death. Faaitoito et Aroha,
Yves and Kathleen Perrin

Kathleen C. Perrin - July 09 at 03:29 PM



“ I was his pharmacist for years, we always enjoyed a good laugh. A very pleasant fellow! He will be missed.

waldemar carlstrom - July 09 at 12:55 PM



“ Remi is an amazing person, he will live in my heart as a shining example of kindness and giving.

Rob Bailey - July 08 at 09:27 PM



“ Oh, Phyllis, I am so sorry for your loss. I only met Remi once, but was very impressed with him. You married very well and have had a wonderful life with him! Love, sympathy and hugs to you!

Marla Anderson - July 08 at 12:10 PM



“ Dear Phyllis and family. What an amazing man your husband and father was. We know he will continue his loving service as he watches over you. Sendng our love.
Tom and Reta Luke

Tom and Reta Luke - July 08 at 12:27 AM