



## Sean Atkisson

May 16, 1961 - March 5, 2019

Sean J. Atkisson, age 57, passed away peacefully early on Tuesday morning, March 5, 2019, at Utah Valley Hospital in Provo, Utah with his loving wife, Tawnya, by his side.

He was born May 16, 1961 in Sterling, Colorado, to Berna Mings and Guy Atkisson. He was raised in a loving home by his stepmom, Judy Atkisson, and his dad, Guy, along with his brothers Shane and Shannon and his sister, Kim Fitzsimmons. He received an undergraduate degree from Evergreen State College and two masters degrees in family studies from the University of Illinois, after which he worked as a licensed clinical social worker. He married his sweetheart, Tawnya Lynn Curtis on August 5, 1983, to whom he was sealed for eternity on January 14, 1984 in the Atlanta, Georgia Temple.

He was a devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served a 2-year mission in Columbia, South America, and held and magnified many callings in the church including as a bishop, seminary teacher and elders quorum instructor. His love of the Savior was apparent in the way he lived his life. Sean enjoyed spending time with his friends and family, and playing with his grandkids who adored him and affectionately called him "Gimpa." He was extremely kind, a wonderful listener, and loved by everyone who met him. He was passionate about genealogy. Sean served as a church history missionary for 4 years, working relentlessly on researching the Peter Whitmer family line (a puzzle which we expect by now he has solved!).

He is survived by his wife, Tawnya; his children, Seth (and Jackie) Atkisson, Brianna (and Eric) Nelson, Curtis Atkisson, Hannah (and Sean) Navarro, Saren (and Paul) Davis; his grandchildren, Taylor, Ellie, Maxine, Ruby, Graham, Nora, Jude, Clara, Clark; his mother, Berna Mings; his stepmom, Judy Atkisson; his brothers Shane and Shannon Atkisson; and his sister Kim Fitzsimmons. He was preceded in death by his father, Guy Atkisson.

All are invited to attend funeral services and a life celebration held Friday, March 8th, at 11:00 am, at the Cascade 3rd Ward Chapel, located at 1051 East 200 North, Orem, Utah, where a visitation will be held prior from 9:00 to 10:30 am. He will be laid to rest at East

Lawn Memorial Hills Cemetery in 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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**MAR 8 Visitation 09:00AM - 10:30AM**

**8**

Cascade 3rd Ward

1051 East 200 North, Orem, UT, US

**MAR 8 Funeral Service 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

**8**

Cascade 3rd Ward

1051 East 200 North, Orem, UT, US

# Comments

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“ Sean and I graduated from High School together in Tacoma, Washington in 1979. I left town after graduation, but ran into Sean and Tawnya at our 10 year reunion in Tacoma in 1979. I moved many times and eventually ended up in Missouri where I ran into Sean again. The last time I saw Sean was at a rehab facility in Mt. Vernon, Missouri right after his accident. He was in a wheelchair and had a HALO on. In all of the years that I've known Sean, He was always an inspiration. I will always be inspired by his example of good natured, upbeat courage.

Jeffrey Hull  
West Plains, Missouri

Jeffrey Hull - March 08, 2019 at 09:33 AM



“ High School reunion in 1989.

Jeffrey - March 08, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ i smile (I actually roll on the floor laughing in my mind) when I recall Sean and I working side by side at his business in South Tacoma WA. One day I was going through the mail and one of the documents was addressed to Sean Jumbo Atkisson. So I good-naturedly advised him that I had never been made aware of his middle name and asked if his family had roots in circus life. His face turned a little red and he said, " my middle name is Jubal but no one ever gets it right."  
Well, he will always be Sean JUMBO to me  
I loved him then and I will always love him.  
It will be a sweet moment when we rekindle our friendship on the forever side of the veil.  
our love to you Tawnya and the whole family  
Richard Carey-Fuson

Richard Carey-Fuson - March 07, 2019 at 11:17 PM



“ I remember when he was the bishop when I was a youth. I have never forgotten the lesson he gave to the youth one day about Christ's atonement. He separated out the word to "at-one-ment" and explained that coming to Christ is the process of aligning our will and actions to be more like His. I have never forgotten that lesson.

Emily Jorgensen - March 07, 2019 at 09:59 AM



“ I have many wonderful memories of Sean. I always enjoyed our visits when I would come over to have lunch with him. He was always so interested in my concerns and how I was doing. This past year I have had some health issues I have been dealing with and when I went over he was so interested in helping me. He would share doctor information and would refer me to good doctors that he was familiar with. One time I found myself pretty down and discouraged about my progress and was kind of in a mode of self pity. It suddenly hit me that not once in any of my visits had Sean expressed anything negative to me about his own condition, no complaints only gratitude for each day of life that he had and for his many blessings including his wife and children. He loved to talk about his family and how much he loved and appreciated them. It made me realize that hey, I have nothing to complain about. Be grateful for what you have. He always had a way of making me smile and feeling good about life and building me up.

I am also very grateful for the blessing of having had him teach our High Priests Group and later the combined Elders Quorum. He is a great teacher and he made great use of technology to present his lessons. I was always amazed at his ability to do it with limited use of his hands and arms. His lessons were always uplifting. He truly taught with the spirit.

I am sure he is rejoicing that he now has full mobility and no longer suffers from the physical trials he has dealt with here for the past many years. I can see him racing around doing things that he has not been able to do. I will sure miss him but rejoice in the privilege of having had him as a friend and brother. I know he will be working hard on the other side blessing his family and working hard to do family history work and missionary work. His example has been a blessing to me. Love ya Sean!

Kyle Love

**Kyle Bowen Love** - March 06, 2019 at 03:27 PM



“ I best knew Sean as Elder Atkisson. He served as a Church Service Missionary for Historic Sites and worked with me on the Peter and Mary Whitmer family and their farm in Fayette, New York. His research has opened lots of new doors into understanding the history of the Church of Jesus Christ and how the Restoration unfolded in the early days of the Church. I miss him already and was greatly blessed by his influence and example. Sean was a true gentleman and a scholar. I'm certain he is already doing many more good things.

Mark Staker

**Dr. Mark L. Staker** - March 07, 2019 at 01:45 PM



“ I agree with Kyle about Sean's spirit/attitude. I only met Sean just over a year ago, but noticed that he was always smiling. To his family, I am sorry for your loss. Peace and blessings.

**Laura D** - March 07, 2019 at 11:52 PM