



Grant Harold Holdaway

MAY 29, 1931 - NOV 15, 2020



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Grant Harold Holdaway

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Grant Harold Holdaway, age 89, passed away on November 15, 2020 at his home surrounded by family.

He was born May 29, 1931 in Tonga to Elmer Harold Holdaway and Norma Sumsion, who were serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He grew up on the family farm in Vineyard, Utah. He was the third of ten children. He enjoyed debate and football in high school, graduating from Lincoln High in Orem.

Grant served in the New England States Mission. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a Master's Degree in science and a teaching certification. He taught science and math at Orem Junior High for many years. He loved his country and served in the Marine Corps.

He married Barbara Harriet Pearson on February 24, 1953. They had five children together. Barbara died in 2014. He married Guadalupe Aguado Lopez on September 12, 2017.

Grant was an active and devoted member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served as Scoutmaster for many years and loved it. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award. He also served in two bishoprics and taught many classes.

Grant had the greenest thumb in the valley. He owned Grant's Plants which later became Vineyard Garden Center. He blessed the valley with plants, vegetables, Pumpkinland and poinsettias.

At age 67, he took up running completing many ultra marathons. He ran his last 50 miler at the age of 87 and ran his final race—a 5K in September 2020.

He was an inspiration to all, whether teaching, gardening, farming, or running.



Obituary

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He was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Norma, his wife Barbara, granddaughter Kara. He is survived by his wife Lupita; children: daughter Wendy Holdaway (Alex Flores); daughter Danielle (Jay) Taylor; son Jeff (Karen Bybee); son Jon (Myrna); and daughter Susie Holdaway; siblings: brother Leo (Beth) Holdaway; and sister Pat Parsons; fourteen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held for family only, Thursday, November 19, 11:00 a.m. and streamed on YouTube <https://youtu.be/SxfQfyT414s> . For online condolences and the link to view the service, visit www.premierfuneral.com



Tribute Wall

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Michelle Peterson posted:

Our condolences from Orem Center For Massage. He was one of my favorite clients and I'll miss him.

February 12 at 11:50 AM



Ronald Stoddard posted:

Grant was an amazing man. I had the privilege as a very young man of working by his side in the fields. He was an example of hard, honest work. As a faithful member of the Church he blessed the lives of countless ward and stake members. We will never forget the beautiful arrays of flowers that he would provide and donate for our stake conferences. When he was severely injured during an early morning run (he had collided with a bicyclist) one of the members of our stake presidency said, "Any lesser man would have been killed in that accident." He was a true example of diligence, obedience and enduring to the end. We send our condolences to his wife and family. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Ronald and Barbara Stoddard

November 22 at 5:15 PM



Robert Harding posted:

As a youth growing up in Vineyard living close to Grant, I was always blessed by his example: as a scout, as a teacher, as a hard worker, and as a gentle man demonstrating great faith in the Savior. Later in life as he started running, he was always an inspiration. What a great legacy he has left for his family! Robert Harding

November 21 at 10:44 AM



Tribute Wall

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Nathan shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I am grateful for those in my life that took time to help me be a better person. One such person is Grant Holdaway. When I was 12 years old, Grant Holdaway was my church youth leader and scoutmaster. I looked up to Grant and really enjoyed learning from him. One day Grant asked if I would be interested in working for him at his garden center known as Vineyard Garden Center. I was excited about the opportunity and took it. I would work a few hours after school each day and then a full 8 hours on Saturday. During the summers, I would work full-time Monday through Saturday. The work at times was hard. I would be asked to weed fields, weed around the garden center and weed anywhere else there were weeds. I remember helping harvest pumpkins in the fall and learning to how to catch pumpkins as I stood in the truck and have the pumpkins thrown up at me. The goal was to not drop the pumpkin and to keep the stem in place. Overall, Grant taught me how to work. He worked harder than anyone I know. He was very knowledgeable about many topics and taught me many things while in the fields or working on projects together. Grant inspired me to be better and to do better. He inspired me to work hard, even when the work was not considered "fun". Grant taught me the importance of a sense of humor. He would make jokes if he made a mistake. He would joke with customers and with me. He didn't take things too seriously. On top of all this, Grant was an example of one who lives the gospel of Jesus Christ. He served others all the time, just like Christ would have. I know that he saw that I needed some guidance and I think that is why he hired me. He could have hired someone else that was more skilled than I, but he took me on as a project and wanted to help me be better. Grant is my hero. I look up to Grant. Grant taught me so many life lessons. The great thing about Grant is his humility. He didn't help me for some reward, or to check something off a list. He did it because he genuinely cares about people. He wants to help people be the best they can be. And that is probably what I have learned the most from Grant. I hope to be like him. I hope to be a positive influence in the lives of others. Heaven received a valiant one this week. And, as many have pointed out, we are pretty sure he has already planted a garden since his arrival in heaven.

November 18 at 2:22 PM



Nathan shared 2 photos to the **Grant Holdaway** album.



November 20 at 11:03 AM



Tribute Wall

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MH

Marvin Holdaway posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Grant's passing. What a great man. I was privileged to grow up next to him and his family. I was always amazed at the energy he had. He always had a kind genuine word for all. He will be missed, but what a joyous reunion he's having with family and friends who have passed on.

November 19 at 8:32 AM

NV

Norma Vineyard posted:

I am very sad for the passing of a great man, and friend! What ever question I had for my garden he always had the right answer. He always let me have some of the corn leaves at no charge. when he close the garden center I would go with my questions to his house. He gave me free tomatoes, peppers and of course the corn leaves. I always made the comment that there was a huge castle in heaven waiting for him because of his generosity and his response was "oh no! The Lord gave me all of this and I am just sharing what he gave me"! I know he is now enjoying his big castle in heaven with his wife. I'll miss him so much! until we meet again. Norma Vineyard

November 19 at 7:56 AM

JA

Jan posted:

We lived next door to "Pumpkin Land" and enjoyed the excitement of the Fall season. Grant was always very generous to us and would see to it that we had plenty pumpkins, vegetables and flowers. He knew I bottled pickles so he would see to it that I'd have a half bushel every year. He'd say, "Jan, Barbara would be to lunch at 1:00 so you come and get your cucumbers then." Barbara didn't like Grant giving away their produce so he always did it on the sly. We loved him so much and always spoke highly of him. I have hundreds of fond memories of Grant and his kindness to my family and others. He was a very caring and thoughtful friend. He set a high standard for all of us to follow. He will be missed,

November 19 at 7:36 AM



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MB

Matthew Brown posted:

I'll never forget the pause in his voice when he saw how heavy my backpack was. It weighed the same as I did. As a scout setting out on my first backpacking adventure I was on a path for trouble. As my scoutmaster, he knew he was going to share in my trouble. He offered some advice but didn't tell me I couldn't do what was coming, just that I needed to be ready for something very hard. I appreciate him not preventing me from taking on something difficult, while being ready to provide support. I would have missed an opportunity to learn what I was capable of if he had intervened. It's been mentioned how much time Grant spent getting his hands dirty. I thank Grant for letting me get my hands dirty.

November 19 at 7:27 AM

KK

Kelly Kirkpatrick posted:

Thank you Grant for being an influence in my life. You were my Teacher in Science at Orem Junior High School. Thanks for your friendship and what you've done for this city, state, and this world. You are a great treasure and example. Thank you my friend.

November 19 at 7:25 AM

TM

Troy B. Marsh posted:

I knew Grant through Wendy and ultrarunning and we spent many hours together on the trails and traveled to places in Texas and Arizona. I have many fond memories and Grant truly inspired me to live life with "relentless forward motion" and never give up during times that are hard. My most precious memory was a time during the WF100 and I was pacing him during the night and together above tree line we were watching a lightning storm approach that soon found its way right above us. We saw lightning striking all around us and I was terrified for my life. Something he said gave me courage and it became one of the most profound experiences of my life. Thank you Grant for your friendship and example of how we can live life.

November 19 at 6:57 AM



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LA

Linda Agostinelli posted:

My love and prayers are with your family at this time. My name is Linda Agostinelli and I am Susie's long time friend in Post Falls. I have seen Grant's strong influence on Susie's family in many ways over the years. I remember him inviting Ben and Dan (and maybe Nora) to work on his farm during the summers when they were younger. He gave them the opportunity to work hard and connect to the farm. He was concerned for their developing work ethic. I have been blessed many times by Susie's skills with plants and gardening. She has started and counseled me on many potted plants. She has also shared her love of the simple farm life that she experienced in her childhood. It was a much different experience than my years involved in the city life of Chicago!! I have also experienced Grant's amazing corn on the cob and other vegetables from his farm. I have seen pictures and heard memories of his Pumpkin Land operation that was a beloved destination for many years in your area. I have seen pictures and stories of his unbelievable running career. I would have had a hard time even walking that far! And I have have a tender memory of Susie sharing that he really enjoyed a bowl of bread and milk at the end of his long work days on the farm. Lastly, Grant blessed me to stay at his home a few times as I joined in on family events. He was always gracious and kind to me as we were together. I pray that you will be comforted at this time of loss. I pray that you will be lifted in your memories and in the love of your family being together. I pray that you will be strengthened in the love of our Savior, Jesus Christ and in His Resurrection that blesses us to have life after death.

November 19 at 6:50 AM

RM

Randall J Merrill posted:

I was sad to see the passing of Mr. Holdaway. He didn't know me personally, but I felt like he was my friend. I loved to go to Grant's Plants (Vinyard Nursery) because the plant quality and selection was among the best in the valley. But the real delight was seeing Grant at work, and having a chance to talk to him...seek his advice. The last time I talked to him he told me about the marathon that he ran with other family members...I was amazed. Thanks Grant for enriching my life and my yard. If there is a Garden of Eden in heaven, I'm sure you will be assigned to work there. Randy Merrill

November 19 at 5:15 AM

CA

Cathryn lit a candle in honor of Grant.

My childhood and adult life were going to Pumpkin Land as a child and later with my grandchildren and going with my late Mother to Grants Plants for all my gardening needs, especially their Geraniums and wide selection and 🍟 Potato Starts and Seeds. Mr. Holdaway was a Very hard worker and I missed going there terribly when they closed. May he Rest in Peace!



November 19 at 3:53 AM



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DP

David N Peterson posted:

Dear friend! So many years and such a help with all of my garden issues but so much more as we've been bless by Grant and Barbara over those years. We have had more than one conversation about his marathons but without success on my part as his physician I'm afraid. Barbara and her amazing length of life as one of Dr. Russell Nelson's prize patients. Together this couple were not only some of my dearest friends but allowed me the opportunity to be vested in their care until my retirement just a few years ago. Loved them both and admired their work ethic. Well done Grant Holdaway!

November 19 at 3:27 AM

TT

Tara Tulley posted:

Will never forget when he showed me up and passed me on Bozung Hill at Squaw Peak in 2010, I always looked forward to passing or being passed by him on a race and his smile and wave.

November 19 at 3:18 AM

JS

Justin Smith posted:

I am deeply saddened by the passing of my Scoutmaster Grant Holdaway. He was just a great inspiration to anyone to keep on keeping on. Grant always had a smile and was quick to give a witty comment. I learned so much from him through Scouting and I use what he taught me to pass on to our youth. Heaven is blessed to have such a sweet soul. My condolences go out to his family.

November 18 at 3:13 PM

RF

Ryan Ferre posted:

I was that curious kid that wanted to grow begonias from seed. I had saved some seeds and started growing them until they started to develop some problems. My parents took me to see Grant who taught me about fungal issues and seedlings. He sent me home as a happy kiddo. I grew up and graduated with a degree in Horticulture inspired by my parents but also the plants we purchased from Grant every year. It was never Vineyard Garden Center at our house, it was Grants Plants! You will be missed dearly, Grant! I still want some sweet corn!

November 18 at 2:45 PM



Tribute Wall

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WH

Wendy Holdaway posted:

November 18 at 2:22 PM

MD

Moondoggy Dean November 28 at 10:44 PM

Having just learned of Grant's passing, my eyes are wet while writing this. Grant was, and continues to be, a great inspiration both on the trails and in life. I'll miss seeing his radiant smile. Condolences to his family on your loss. Moondoggy Dean

NJ

Nathan B Johnson November 19 at 7:57 AM

There should be a bronze statue of Grant in Vineyard. He was always a staple in the community! Hard worker, knowledgeable, helpful, friendly, and Christ like are some words to describe him. I have known him all my life. He would get straw from me for years to use in his pumpkin land. He was always willing to help anyone with tips on gardening and raising beautiful plants. His poinsettias were the best! He shared his garden with those in need, and even those that weren't. We shared the "love of dirt", or farming, in common. He was always someone to look up to and I will surely miss his smile and his stories. Rest in peace, Grant, you've earned it! Nate and Donna Johnson

GG

Gene Gammon November 19 at 6:05 AM

Grant was one of my favorite cousins even though he was a couple of years older. We loved to play marbles. He usually captured my best marble (a "flint" marble) because he was so good at using his thumb to hit his marble striking my marble some distance from his. Not only did we love to play marbles, but he loved to take me to the flower or vegetable gardens near their home to show them to me. He kept them free of weeds. I wondered where he found time to garden because we both lived on dairy farms. Then there were the daily chores in the fields: planting, irrigating, weeding, cultivating, and harvesting. There was hardly any time during the summertime to do anything else. But Grant's love of getting his hands dirty working the good earth was a gift, which he cherished throughout his life. In more recent times, I have had the privilege of visiting him at his home and of course, at his garden center. I will miss him, but I am confident that he must be experiencing a happy and joyous reunion with Barbara and so many others. May his children and posterity know that he is at peace and that they, too, will be able to see him and her and so many others. One more note—I was so pleased to see him faithfully serving and working in the Temple. He has left you a splendid legacy. Sincerely, Gene Gammon



Media

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November 20 at 11:05 AM



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November 20 at 11:03 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Grant by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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