



JD Joe Don Elder

DEC 16, 1941 - OCT 21, 2021



Scan to Visit

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
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Joe Don Elder, JD, Big Joe, or son, 79, a resident of Orem, Utah, passed away on October 21st, 2021.

JD was born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 16, 1941, to Bennie Mural Drury and Joe Don Zapponi. JD is the younger brother to sister Lee Aiken.

At the age of 17, with the permission of his mother, he entered service in the United States Navy. It was here that he served as an electronics specialist on diesel-electric boats. He had a range of experiences in the Pacific; stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and Japan. At the age of 21, JD was honorably discharged.

It was at San Antonio Junior college, he met Roxsann Heard. He jokingly told friends he would marry her. Little did he know that his words would come true, and she would be the love of his life.

Roxsann was a member of the LDS Church. While they were dating, she sent the missionaries to teach him about the Church. JD was taught the lessons and took the invitation to be baptized. He eventually came up to Brigham Young University where Roxsann was attending. They were married on September 15th, 1965 In Salt Lake City LDS Temple. Their honeymoon was a camp out on mount Timpanogos, where it promptly snowed 5 inches.

JD graduated with a bachelor of science degree from Brigham Young University. Two master degrees followed from Trinity University in hospital administration and Baylor University in physical therapy.



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JD's work experience included teaching physical therapy at the university level, hospital administration in Nephi, Utah, director of rehabilitation in American Fork, Utah, and pediatric physical therapy in St. George, Utah. The retirement years brought JD and Roxsann up to Provo, Utah to be closer to their grandchildren.

As a young father, JD was interested in becoming a pilot where he soloed several flights. His interests include racquetball, yoyo tricks, pool, chess and was also a volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America.

Most notably, JD was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints. He was devoted to his faith in Christ and the principles of the Gospel of Christ and firmly believed families will be together forever and that all of this was made possible through Jesus Christ.

JD was preceded in death by his father Waldo Elder, mother Bennie Elder, brother in-law Howard Aiken, and his sister Lee Aiken. He is survived by his wife Roxsann Elder, children; Howard W. Elder, Joseph A. Elder, Sharron L. Ngatikaura, Gwenn D. Tauveli, 15 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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