



Peter Peay Ashworth

JUN 10, 1932 - NOV 8, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



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Peter Peay Ashworth, 90, of Provo, Utah, peacefully passed away on November 8, 2022, after a short battle with cancer. His last days were spent surrounded by all his living children.

Peter was born on June 10, 1932, to Anna and Victor Ashworth, in Provo, Utah. As a young boy, his family moved to Bakersfield, California, where he spent his formative years. From 1952 to 1954 he served in the Army during the Korean War. From 1956 to 1959 he served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Argentina and Chile. There he fell in love with the Spanish language, which led to a lifetime of studying and teaching Spanish literature. Peter graduated from BYU in 1963 with a B.A. in Spanish studies and earned a Ph.D. in Spanish literature from Oklahoma University in 1966.

While at BYU, Peter, age 28, met 18-year-old Kathryn Robbins. He knew he was much too old for her, and she knew she was much too young for marriage. But fate knew more than both, and they were married two years later in the Logan Temple, on June 11, 1962.

The couple, whose love and devotion was admired by all who knew them, found their greatest joy in rearing their seven children. They filled their home with music, faith, literature, global foods, humor, scholarship, and love. Ever the feminist, Peter was a hands-on father and took joy in sharing all the child-rearing responsibilities with Kathryn. As he said, his favorite hobbies were his wife and his kids. They were married nearly 48 years, until cancer took Peter's sweetheart in 2010.

Peter was passionate about the pursuit of knowledge, and he instilled this passion in others over his long career as a Spanish literature professor at BYU. In and out of the classroom, Peter thrived on discussing ideas and was an educator until the very end. Studying the scriptures with Peter was both a spiritual feast and a lesson in scholarship. He never shied away from challenging topics and enjoyed the deliberation more than the resolution. Likewise, Peter had an uncanny memory.



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Even in his last days with his family, he was defending champion of Trivial Pursuit and Name That Tune.

Whether hiking in the Uinta Mountains, birdwatching near the lake, or growing heirloom tomatoes in his garden, Peter's love of nature was pervasive. Even in retirement, Peter never stopped being active. His hobbies included daily exercise, discovering new recipes, reading, completing even the most challenging New York Times crossword puzzles, and watching movies and PBS shows. But most of all, he loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, and siblings.

Peter is survived by his children Kevin Ashworth, Los Angeles, CA; Melanie (Charles) Swenson, Logan, UT; Julia Ashworth, Provo, UT; Nathan Ashworth, Provo, UT; Emily (Reid) Allred, Foxfield, CO; and Jared (Kristie) Ashworth, Thousand Oaks, CA; and by his 12 grandchildren. He is also survived by six of his siblings, Victoria Rogers, Enoch, UT; Tanya Hainsworth, Spokane, WA; Penelope Ashworth, Cedar City, UT; Michael Ashworth, Clinton, UT; David Ashworth, Clinton, UT; and Stephen Ashworth (Sandy) Enoch, UT. Peter was predeceased by his parents, Victor and Anna Peay Ashworth; his siblings Alessandra, Timothy, and Shanna Dawn; his daughter, Cynthia Ashworth; and his loving wife, Kathryn Ashworth.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, November 26th, at 11 a.m. at the Edgemont 6th Ward chapel, 4056 Timpview Drive, Provo, UT 84604. The family will receive guests prior to services at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to

www.communityactionprovo.org

The zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/95248303108>



Tribute Wall

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Brian Price posted:

In the summer of 1997, I took an introduction to Hispanic literature course with Peter Ashworth. It was an eye-opening experience that set me on the path. Dr. Ashworth was funny and insightful and brooked no squeamishness. One time, he assigned us an initiation story about a young peeping tom who sneaks into a school air duct to spy on the girls shower room. Some prudish recently returned missionaries gasped in horror as he pointed out the rather obvious yonic imagery. He glared at them over his glasses and told them to grow up. I have never laughed so hard in class in my life. Since returning to BYU, I have seen him a couple of times at the annual faculty dinner and around local eateries. Not long ago we both happened to be at my favorite local pupusería. I went up, reintroduced myself, and thanked him for that class. He was a good, kind professor who made a major impression on my career. QEPD, profesor.

November 18 at 6:09 AM



Dave Peterson posted:

Peter and his wife are a good person to mine for many years and I was always so impressed with the kindness that he demonstrated with his wife. He is and was an impressive man. I am happy that they now I have the opportunity to be together again.

November 14 at 1:52 PM

DP **Dave Peterson** November 14 at 1:58 PM

DP **Dave Peterson** November 14 at 1:54 PM
Should have read: were good patients of mine



Dale Pratt posted:

Pete was a wonderful mentor to me in the early stages of my career. When Valerie and I told him we were getting married, Pete counted up and down in his chair. Our youngest, Marina (erstwhile Joseph), used to crawl from Valerie's office into Pete's office to have a visit. Later, Marina started calling him "Peach" and the name stuck, at least in our family. I loved talking with Pete and Kathryn at church. They always had such wonderful insights. Pete's charity in caring for Kathryn was also a huge, brightly shining example of marital love. Once, in the mid-1990s, Peter, Barbara Gordon (now Bonyata) and I did a panel presentation at a conference in Las Vegas. He found us a great Indian restaurant where we discussed together what we had learned from the conference. That is one (of many) of the treasured memories I have of Pete. I thank God that I knew him. Dale Pratt

November 14 at 11:13 AM



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Margaret B. Young posted:

I have precious memories of Pete. We performed in a couple of Spanish plays together with H. Kay Moon and Hal Clegg. Pete was always in good humor, and his Spanish was splendid. I did not know that Cynthia had also passed away. I was in grad school with her. Such a good family! Blessings on all of you!

November 13 at 1:01 PM



George And Maureen Russell November 14 at 3:01 PM

A dear dear friend, great memories of his early years in Bakersfield



Memories only last if you share them

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



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