



Reas Elwood Allen

SEP 28, 1947 - APR 5, 2024



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Reas Elwood Allen

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Reas Elwood Allen was born September 28, 1947 in Grand Junction, Colorado and passed away April 5, 2024 in Orem, Utah. Third child to Jack Lewis Allen and Zela Virginia Arnsperger, his father wrote in his autobiography, "Reas was born 28 September 1947 and about caused his grandfather to have a nervous breakdown. He was supposed to arrive on 28 August and was exactly one month late. His grandparents were waiting to leave for California and his grandmother wouldn't leave until he arrived."

When Reas was 2 years old his family moved to Los Angeles, California where he would be raised with his sister, Carol Ann, and brothers Ray Glen "Toby" and Larry Lee. Zela's youngest brother, Jack Arnsperger moved in with them in 1950 when his father died and would be raised with them.

Reas met, fell in love with and married Debra Jean Richards. They were married on July 22, 1967 in Tarzana, California and later sealed in the Oakland Temple. Reas received his draft notice on the day of their wedding rehearsal and spent two years in the Army with the last 11 months being in Korea. Reas was drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War. Although he ended up in Korea, the controversy over Vietnam was felt by all veterans coming home. He put that time behind him and rarely spoke of his experiences. It wasn't until his grandchildren began to ask him about it that he could show the pride he felt in serving his country. As time went on, he became the "poster boy" for patriotism and the Army. He always wore his Army cap with pins for the infantry in which he served. His grandson, David, spent many Sunday afternoons interviewing him about his life and experiences in the Army. Reas and Debbie raised a beautiful family of 5 children. Kari Ann (Carlos) Iglesias, Kathie Kay (Chad) Tone, Thomas Ray (Brooke) Allen, Curtis Robert (Alissa) Allen and Daniel Steven (Tausha) Allen. They have 15 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, with one more on the way. He would be a father figure to many more



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along the way, including Bryan Gutierrez and also Andrew Jacobson who lived with them for a while during high school until he left on his mission.

Reas recently said of his wife "I have a beautiful wife that treats me better than I deserve." He loved her dearly. Reas was extremely involved in his children's lives. He was father, coach, mentor, teacher, cheerleader and friend. He coached his kids in t-ball, basketball, baseball and softball. He supported Debbie in her role as camp director and went to girls' camp to take care of her and his daughters and their friends many times over the years. We still hear his coaching and life advice in our heads often. He taught his daughters that they could do anything the boys could do and expected good things from his kids always. His nieces and nephews love him like a father, and he loved them intensely and always appreciated their visits and calls. He loved golfing with his sons and with his friends "the old guys". He was so sad to not be able to do that in the last year. Helping at Kid's Club at Home Depot every month really lifted his spirits. He loved his friends at Home Depot, and he was there in March laughing with them and teasing the kids. He had a ready smile, his hugs were well known. He loved to smile and make people laugh.

As much as Reas loved his children and wife, he lived for his grandchildren. He enjoyed going to games and performances. He loved supporting them in everything they did. They were his pride and joy and they are what kept him on this Earth for as long as he was here. He loved them completely, he didn't want to leave them and told them he loved them at every opportunity.

He was a builder by trade and worked with family for many years, learning from them and teaching them. Up until the end he was making sure that he shared all his knowledge with his children. Construction work led to many moves. The family lived in California, Oregon and Arizona for work and finally landed in Utah for the past 19 years. He made friends everywhere he went and is loved by many.

Reas was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and fought a valiant fight for the past 15+ years. The family wishes to thank our dear friend Nancy Trapnell from Enhabit Hospice, who took care of and loved him and mom for the past year. We wish to also thank Ann and Jared from Enhabit as well who were there for him in the end.

Reas was preceded in death by his mother, father and three siblings. He is survived



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by his wife Debbie, daughters Kari and Kathie and sons Tom, Curt and Daniel as well as his 15 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Dad, enjoy the heavenly reunion with your family! We love you and will see you soon.

Services will be held at the Orem Stake Center at 481 East Center Street in Orem Utah Saturday April 13, 2024 at 12:30pm. Viewing at 11:30 at the same location. Burial will be at the Orem Cemetery 1520 N 800 E.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.premierfuneral.com.

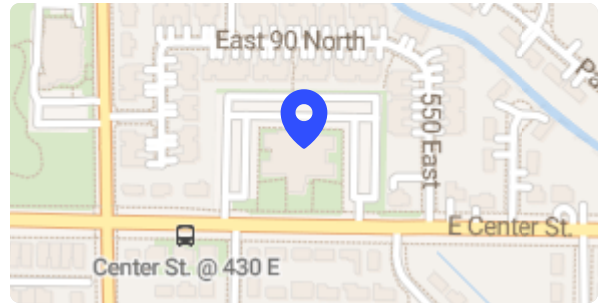


Events

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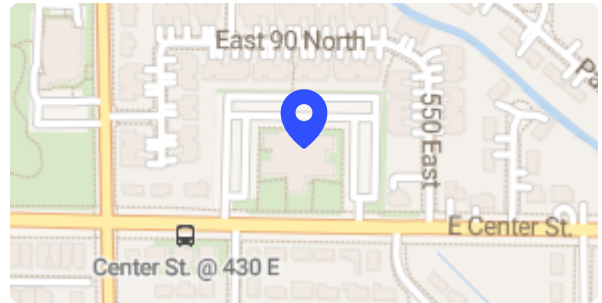
Viewing

- Saturday**, April 13, 2024
- 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM MT
- Stake Center**
481 East Center Street, Orem UT



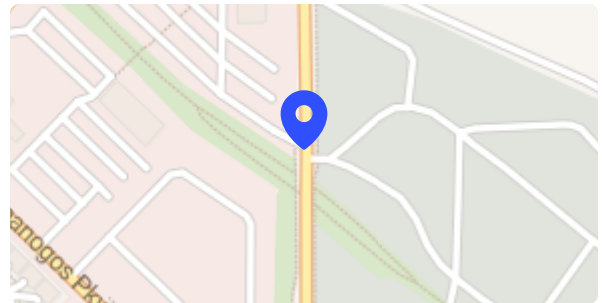
Funeral

- Saturday**, April 13, 2024
- 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM MT
- Stake Center**
481 East Center Street, Orem UT



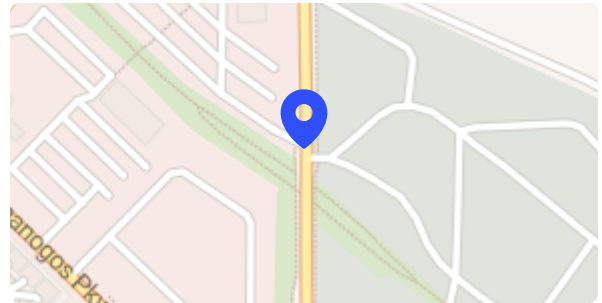
Burial

- Saturday**, April 13, 2024
- 1:30 PM MT
- Orem City Cemetery**
1520 North 800 East, Orem UT 84058



Cemetery Details

- Orem City Cemetery**
1520 North 800 East, Orem UT 84058





Tribute Wall

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Robert Catania posted:

My family friendship and spiritual bond with Reas Allen goes back to about 1968. In terms of the temporal world, it ended a couple weeks ago when we spoke on the phone after I had called him. My fundamental take away observations of Reas which command my respect center on his unshakeable religious faith and devotion to loyalty and his indomitable strength of character while battling cancer for years and years. It was truly amazing!! My unequivocal favorite memory of Reas dates back to 1968 after I had met Debbie due to dating her sister Kathy. Debbie, in her good spirited manner, casually mentioned to Reas that she thought he would like me because I was a "nice guy." Reas promptly told Debbie...." I don't like him." During the half century of friendship that followed, multiple times we would recall that memory and laugh. Another favorite memory of Reas would occur after I had joined the USAF. I was heading to the airport to leave CA to begin my military career and while driving away Reas gave me a crisp military salute. We both still remember that and even talked about it a few weeks ago. I know those of you reading this also have beautiful, sentimental and emotional feelings and stories about Reas. I embrace those stories and spiritually hug all of you as WE HONOR the memory of a special special person and spirit... Reas Allen.

April 10 at 10:04 AM



Dana Jollota April 12 at 11:59 AM



Robert Catania shared a photo to the **R** album.



April 10 at 9:57 AM



Tribute Wall

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RC

Robert Catania posted:

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April 10 at 9:41 AM

DF

Danele Finlinson posted:

Uncle Reas is one of my favorite people! I have so many memories. Many involve baseball -- watching him pitch, watching games on TV and going to games. He taught me the back entrance to Dodger Stadium, going the wrong way on the one way street. Another of my favorite memories was when he asked me to help him plan an evening for Aunt Debbie. A surprise of tickets to see 'Phantom of the Opera'. Thank you for letting me be part of your family. All my love, Danele

April 8 at 5:12 PM



Tribute Wall

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Dana Jollota shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

As Debbie's youngest sister, I was probably 4 years old when Reas started coming around. He immediately became like a big brother to me, and I was so excited when they got married! He was always the guy all of us kids could jump all over while wrestling on the floor in front of the TV. There would be 3 or 4 of us at a time, but he just laughed and had a great time. I remember him teaching us how to dive and swim in the pool at their first apartment, again several kids trying their best to push him under water to no avail. I remember trips to Disneyland, some of them with his Army buddies while they were on leave. And crying when his leave ended because I was afraid he wouldn't come home. But he did come home, and the next adventure was becoming an Auntie to Kari when I was just 9 years old! Later, when we moved to AZ, he taught me how to drive a stick-shift pickup truck in the desert behind their house. I was probably only 13 so it had to be "off the record". That summer that I lived with Reas, Debbie, and their first 3 babies, we had a lot of good times. Reas played in the church softball league and it was fun to go to his games to see him pitch. He was a great teacher and mentor to an awful lot of people. He was an incredible Dad to all of his kids, as well as a very proud Grandpa. The last time I saw him, he said we was going to live as long as he could so he could be around for his kids/grandkids/great-grandkids. There will always be a special place in my heart for Reas, and he will be missed.



April 8 at 1:54 PM



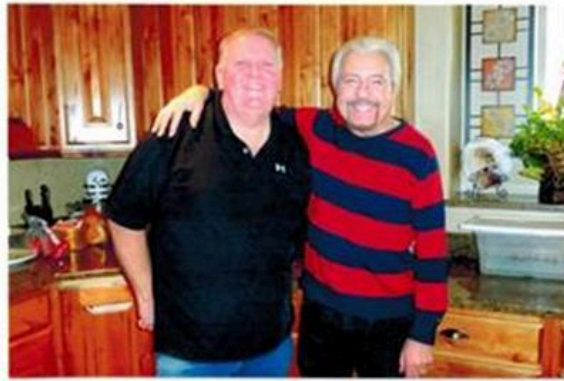
Media

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Robert Catania shared a photo to the **R** album.

April 10 at 9:57 AM



Reas and Robert



Media

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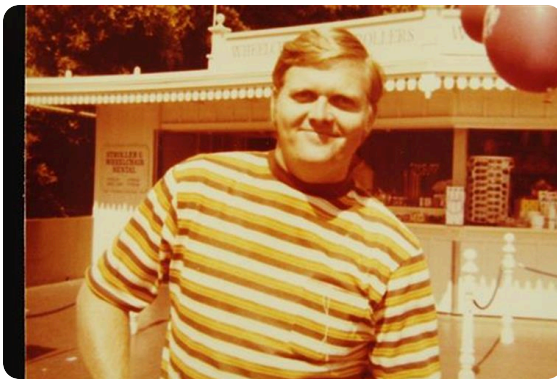


Dana Jollota shared 6 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

April 8 at 1:54 PM



I was the flower girl 2nd from the left in Reas & Debbie's wedding





Memories only last if you share them

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



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